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'Contamination' concern over plan for 200 homes

By Eva Astreinidou

COUNCILLORS and villagers are objecting to a proposal to build 200 homes due to concerns over development next to a dumping ground.

At a meeting on Friday, neighbours objected to Redrow's development plan for land off Hobbyhorse Lane in Sutton Courtenay, which was put forward and resubmitted with additional information on January 31.

The site had been allocated for residential development for up to 220 homes in the recently adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1.

The residents said that the documents submitted since then do not justify approval of the application due to drainage and contamination risk.

In December, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council said: "The parish council continues to maintain its objection to the application.

"There is nothing in the drainage and gas migration reports that make any material difference to the concerns raised previously.

"There is reference to no report of standing water and run off since 2014, yet videos have been supplied to the district council [Vale of the White Horse] of water from the remedial works running onto the adjacent football pitch.

"The parish council understands that

• Continues on page 3

Motocross racers rev up for championships

TWO Oxfordshire lads are gunning for glory this weekend as the very best motocross racers in the UK line-up for round one of the British Motocross Championship.

Oxford-based Kristian Whatley, who won the championship in 2013, and Luke Norris, from Bicester, will be representing the county at the historic Culham Motoparc circuit, near Oxford, on Sunday.

The pair will be looking to kick off their racing seasons in style, with Whatley competing in the 450cc MX1 and Norris contesting the 250cc MX2.

For more information and tickets visit: www.rhlactivities.com

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Death crash driver told 'only you are to blame'

By Adam Flinn

A DRIVER who caused the death of a 28-year-old man on the A34 at East Ilsley after crashing into his car while he was on the phone has been jailed.

Lewis Stratford, 24, of Field Avenue in Oxford, was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison at Reading Crown Court last Friday.

He had pleaded guilty to causing the death of Gavin Roberts, an Australian who was living in Swindon, following the crash on June 11 last year.

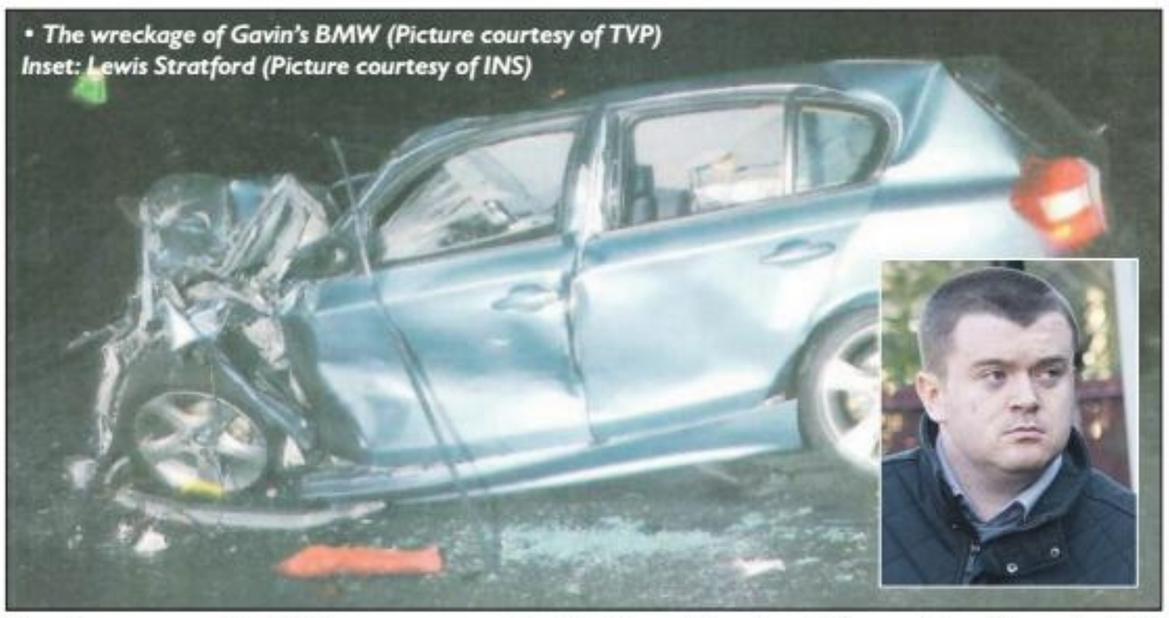
The court heard on Friday that Stratford had been driving southbound on the A34 to see his girlfriend, who he had been arguing with.

His girlfriend had said to him not to come down, warning him not to drive because of the emotional state he was in.

However he did, and he made a number of calls and sent texts to her over an extended period of time, and was on the phone to her at the time of the crash.

Stratford went through the central reservation onto the northbound carriageway, smashing into Mr Roberts' BMW coming the other way.

Both were taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, and Mr Roberts died four days later from a severe head injury.



• *The wreckage of Gavin's BMW (Picture courtesy of TVP)*
Inset: Lewis Stratford (Picture courtesy of INS)

Prosecuting, Alan Blake said that in addition to being on his phone, Stratford was also going above the speed limit, although because of the damage to the car an accurate reading of his speed at the time couldn't be provided.

In defence, Giles Newell said that Stratford was a man of previous good character, and that he is "wracked with guilt and shame" over what happened.

Sentencing, Judge Stephen John said: "You deliberately engaged in the calls made to you and, more importantly, deliberately made the longer calls which led right up to the moment of this tragedy, while you were in a highly emotional and distracted state.

"You rightly accept that your heightened emotional condition, which not long before the collision involved you screaming down the phone at your girlfriend, was such that you should not have been behind the wheel at all.

"The simple fact is that this successful, popular and promising young man would be alive today if you had not behaved so irresponsibly. Only you are to blame."

The sentencing came two days after stronger laws came into force over driving while using a phone, with those caught now facing a minimum of six penalty points and a £200 fine.

Following the sentencing, senior investigating officer Sgt Beth Walton said: "This case tragically evidences that distractions while driving do have and will continue to have catastrophic consequences.

"I would ask people to think about the consequences. If you speed, if you use your mobile phone while driving, then stop doing it and encourage those that you know who also do it to stop.

"While this sentencing will never bring Gavin back, I hope it will allow his family and friends to have a sense of closure."

• *Crash victim Gavin Roberts*

Tributes to great mate

GAVIN Roberts' family have paid tribute to a "great mate" and "the light of my life" following the sentencing of Lewis Stratford on Friday.

During the hearing Gavin's dad Geoff and partner Meg Williamson read out tributes, alongside a statement from his mum Rose Joshua.

Ms Joshua's statement was described as "astonishing" by Judge Stephen John after she forgave Stratford.

It read: "Lewis Stratford, I want you to know that you have my forgiveness and compassion. Do not allow yourself to be destroyed by what happened."

Gavin's dad Geoff said: "He was a great mate to me. He was a great guy, a delightful person, and I am very proud that he was my son."

Gavin's girlfriend Meg said: "Gavin was the light of my life. He had an amazing ability to make everyone he met feel special.

"But life is different now. I miss Gavin every day, and will never forget that cheeky smile and geeky laugh.

"Goodnight my angel."

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Tough new penalties for driving on phone

A JOURNALIST was among the first caught out by the new penalty laws on mobile phone use behind the wheel while she was en-route to cover the police operation.

The female reporter was given a £200 fine and six points on her licence after being stopped by police in Ock Street, Abingdon, on the first day of a national week of enforcement.

Police officers flagged down the woman who was heard saying she was on her way to cover the enforcement of the new laws.

Channel 5 News journalist Dominic Reynolds tweeted: "Breaking Irony News: a journalist driving here to cover phone/driving crackdown has just been busted: £200, 6pts."

New legislation for penalties that came into effect on March 1 will mean double penalty points for long-term drivers. Newly-qualified drivers caught will have to retake their test and theory exam.

People caught twice face disqualification and fines of up to £1,000.

Previously, using a handheld device while driving incurred three points and a £100 fine. Any offenders aged under 21 who have held a licence for two years or less will automatically lose their licence.

The National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme awareness course will no longer be routinely offered as an alternative to a fixed penalty notice, although officers can use their discretion.

Between 2014 and 2016, there were 145 collisions across the Thames Valley where using a mobile phone while driving may have been a contributory factor. Eleven people died and 195 people were injured.

Supt Simon Dodds, of the joint roads policing unit across the Thames Valley and Hampshire forces, said: "There is never an excuse for someone to be using their mobile phone while driving and this change in legislation sends a clear message that it will not be tolerated.

"The increased penalties better reflect the seriousness of such driver behaviour, and the consequences it can have.

"All too often, my officers are faced with the devastation caused by motorists."

Two men arrested as pitch invasion ends game early

By George Welch

TWO men were arrested after a violent pitch invasion at Didcot Town's Loop Meadow Stadium on Saturday.

An investigation is now under way after fans ran on to the pitch with just three minutes to play in the Southern League Division One South and West fixture, with visiting Hereford leading 2-1.

Didcot keeper Leigh Bedwell was confronted as several Bulls fans came on to the pitch after they scored.

As Didcot players rushed to intervene, more visiting Hereford fans clambered over the barriers and on to the pitch.

Chaos ensued as about 100 people were involved in the incident and the police were called.

About 10 minutes later, referee Wayne Chalmers was forced to abandon the game.

Didcot Town said they are "very disappointed" while Hereford said they are "deeply concerned" by the violence.

• An investigation is under way after fans invaded the pitch at Didcot

Both teams said in statements at the weekend they would work closely with the authorities as an investigation was launched.

Hereford added: "It goes without saying that Hereford FC does not condone unlawful behaviour of any sort."

It is likely that the game will have to be replayed.

Two young men from Hereford were arrested and have been bailed, police confirmed.

A Thames Valley Police spokesman said: "A 19-year-old man from Hereford was arrested on suspicion of a public order offence, and a 19-year-old man from Hereford was arrested on suspicion of common assault. Both have been released on bail, one until April 4, the other April 6."

The Railwaymen had taken the lead in the 16th minute through a free kick, a minute after Hereford defender Ryan Green was sent off for a last-man challenge.

Bulls boss Peter Beadle was sent to the stands shortly afterwards in an action-packed opening 20 minutes.

Didcot were reduced to 10 men themselves shortly after the restart and Hereford, the runaway league leaders, began to dominate.

Former Didcot star and Abingdon-based John Mills, who scored 57 goals for Didcot in the 2014-15 season, converted from the penalty spot to level the tie on 67 minutes. With time running out Mike Symons fired home to give the visitors a 2-1 lead before fans invaded.

After the game, Hereford boss Beadle said: "Everything that has gone on at the end is the most disheartening thing because of what the players put in. I feel for the players because they've put everything into the 87 minutes we have played.

"It is disappointing for the lads because they have done so well."

Hereford, who reformed in 2015 in English football's ninth tier after the demise of Hereford United, are on course for a second successive promotion.

Having lost just once all season, they are 14 points clear at the top of the table with nine games to go, including the Didcot game.

Didcot meanwhile are 14th in the league.

News Bites

Dinosaurs and aliens at festival

ABINGDON: The ATOM festival of Science and Technology is returning this month.

The festival will run from March 22 until March 26.

Highlights from the packed five-day programme include a talk about aliens by broadcaster and physics Jim Al-Khalili OBE, and a presentation by professor David Martill's experience hunting dinosaur fossils in the Sahara Desert.

There will also be lab-based challenges for families.

Schools Day is on Friday 24 with workshops and talks going on in several school locations including Abingdon School which is running an outreach programme called the Abingdon Science Partnership.

Author shares family history

ABINGDON: An author will host a talk on a personal and family story through his book A Foot in Both Camps (A German Past for Better and for Worse).

The talk by author Marcus Ferrar will take place on March 15 at 8pm at Preston Road Community Centre.

The book is based on Mr Ferrar's story as someone who was born near London whilst being the son of a German mother, and treats serious historical and moral issues between the two countries.

The cost for the event is £5, with refreshments included.

'Contamination' concerns over proposal for 200 homes

• From front page

local consultants are meeting with appropriate bodies to discuss drainage issues, and the parish council fully maintains its objection."

On February 16, the parish said: "The supplementary documents do nothing to alleviate the parish council's concerns in this regard.

"The additional measures needed to deal with the gas really just confirm that there is an issue with the gas.

"What will the situation be in a few years when it is clogged with silt? Videos have been submitted to the district council showing gas bubbling in the trenches.

"The evidence in the documents submitted does not justify approval of the application."

Councillor Stuart Davenport said: "I proposed the motion to refuse the application in Sutton Courtenay because we had evidence from a drainage expert indicating the proposed drainage system would not work.

"In such circumstances, I felt duty bound to protect neighbours and future residents from the lack of a workable drainage strategy."

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CHILDREN in Banbury explored the science of bubbles when they were invited to a special educational science session.

Working alongside Sanctuary Housing, the Sunshine Centre in Bretch Hill played host to Explorer Dome, a mobile science show, which provided demonstrations to more than 50 young people and their parents.

The children got involved with experiments that explored the unexpected behaviour of bubbles and investigated how they can float, sink, grow, burn and explode.

Ben Brown, from Explorer Dome, said: "It was a really enjoyable session and quite different from being in schools. It was great to see how enthusiastic the children were."

Tracy Rogers, from the Sunshine Centre, said: "The feedback from families was excellent. So many people said they loved everything about the day, but in particular the bubbles."

• *Natasha Grant, top, and Stephanie Sakyeioa*

Bus strike union: Blame the bosses

By Eva Astreinidou

TWO additional dates have been set for bus strike action across Oxfordshire due to 'hard-line bosses' who want to 'salami slice the pay and conditions of workers'.

Crowds of people lined the streets on March 2 and 6 over a dispute regarding Christmas bank holiday pay.

Now two new dates have been set for March 17 and 24 by Unite for Oxford Bus Company bus routes.

The country's largest union, Unite, said it appreciated the disruption the strike will cause to the travelling public, but laid the blame at the door of the company's managing director Phil Southall who wanted 'to break the union'.

In a statement released on March 1, Unite said: "The dispute centres on the failure of the company to enter into any meaningful talks on the annual pay award and the failure to adequately compensate the whole workforce for Christmas/new year."

They said last Tuesday the management 'tore up' the trade union agreement it had with Unite, prompting the group to write to Oxford East MP Andrew Smith, as well as the city council Labour group asking for support.

• *New misery for passengers*

According to Unite, the Oxford Bus Company bosses refused to pay drivers extra for working on two legally recognised bank holidays over the festive season which meant individual drivers lost £100 a day.

Unite regional officer Marie Hall said: "This dispute is entirely of the company's own making, as it has totally failed to engage in meaningful negotiations. Instead it has adopted an aggressive stance to the workforce in what is a legitimate industrial dispute.

"We appreciate the disruption that this strike will cause, but the blame lies with Phil Southall, who behind the warm words, has a plan to salami slice our members' pay and employment conditions. We suspect the hidden agenda here is to break the union.

"As the Oxford public knows only too well, the city is one of the most expensive places in the UK to live and bring up families. Unite is not prepared to stand by and see our members' standard of living seriously eroded by this highly profitable company.

"Because of the hard line tactics of the bosses, our members are reluctantly taking strike action in defence of their incomes in these economically challenging times.

"However, Unite's door is always open for constructive talks."

On Monday, Len McCluskey, leader of the union, joined the picket line alongside bus workers on strike.

He warned that unless the issue of poor wages was addressed the dispute could spread across the country.

The bus company said that in line with industry standards, drivers were paid premium rates for three bank holidays over the Christmas and new year period.

It warned that demanding two additional days of bank holiday pay would mean an increase in fares for passengers.

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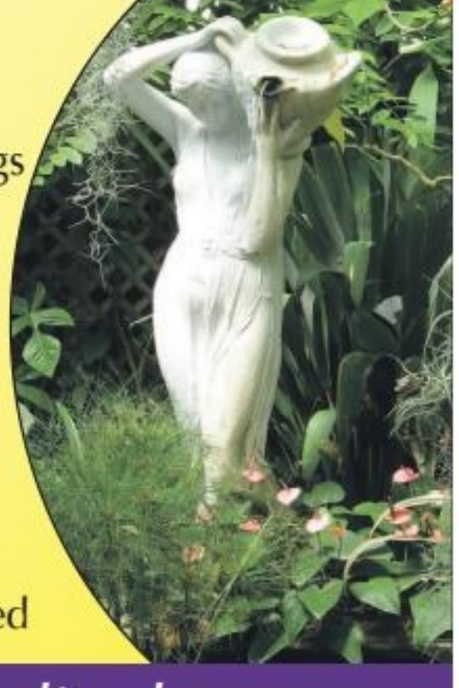
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'Noisy opposition' sparks new plans for 'super council'

• From left, SODC leader John Cotton, OCC leader Ian Hudspeth and VOWH leader Matthew Barber are in favour of a unitary authority

By Eva Astreinidou

COUNCIL leaders have put forward revised proposals in their attempts to create an Oxfordshire 'super council' and quell the 'noisy opposition'.

The leaders of Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils and Oxfordshire County Council announced their idea for a new joint proposal for a 'Better Oxfordshire'.

The proposals unveiled on Friday had a different stance to the 'One Oxfordshire' ideas that were mooted in January in efforts to better suit councils by allocating more powers to local communities and ensuring Oxford City Council will be a local council in its own right.

The proposals read: "The revised proposals recognise that the city of Oxford is central to Oxfordshire's economic and cultural success, and under the new council will become a local council in its own right."

Cherwell and West Oxfordshire district councils and Oxford City have been holding their ground against the unitary proposals, and have launched petitions since the announcement in January.

According to David Hill, chief executive of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils, opposing councils have two weeks to review the plans.

He said that ultimately the decision lies with Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

He added that through implementation committees all leaders will have a chance to be involved in decision-making.

When asked about why the response to the petitions against the unitary council has been so intense, he said: "What they are responding to is the initial ideas.

"We have however had a lengthy engagement process and having listened to people we have recognised the different local concerns and we are now giving stakeholders more influence."

He said that the initial five area executive boards, which would be designated as local decision-making boards, have now been altered to 15-20 boards.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, leader of Oxfordshire County Council, maintained that there is 70 per cent public support for the new unitary council, as suggested in a survey by an independent body.

He said: "We have responded to issues raised during the nine month public engagement exercise in the new proposal, particularly in improving local involvement in Oxford.

"There is an opportunity to create a new local government for Oxford that reflects the city's economic and cultural importance to the whole county.

"The survey results show that despite the noisy opposition whipped up by opponents of change, there is a silent majority who support the idea of new council for a better Oxfordshire."

Cllr Matthew Barber, leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "The Better Oxfordshire proposal will ensure Oxfordshire continues to be a great place to live, work and bring up a family.

"We are working jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to ensure local communities play a big role with the new council."

Cllr John Cotton, leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "A single council for Oxfordshire will be simpler, more local and will deliver better services at a lower cost.

"We have ensured that these revised proposals provide for more local area boards, so that communities across Oxfordshire can have their say on important local issues, from setting car parking charges and tackling anti-social behaviour."

On Thursday last week, West Oxfordshire District Council released a statement that said: "A survey asking for residents' views was completed by 4,364 people with 97 per cent agreeing they wanted to see more options to improve and safeguard local services than the single proposal put forward by Oxfordshire County Council.

"And a further 92 per cent said they wanted to see greater savings than the 2.4 per cent identified in the county proposal which could be secured through initiatives such as councils working together and more efficiently without cutting frontline services."

James Mills, leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "It is crystal clear from this survey our residents do not want to see the creation of a unitary authority devised by Oxfordshire County Council. We all recognise there is far too much at risk in the district including free parking and low council tax, which are of huge benefit to everyone."

The county council is set to discuss the plans at a meeting on Tuesday.

To view the full proposal, visit better-oxfordshire.org/the-proposal

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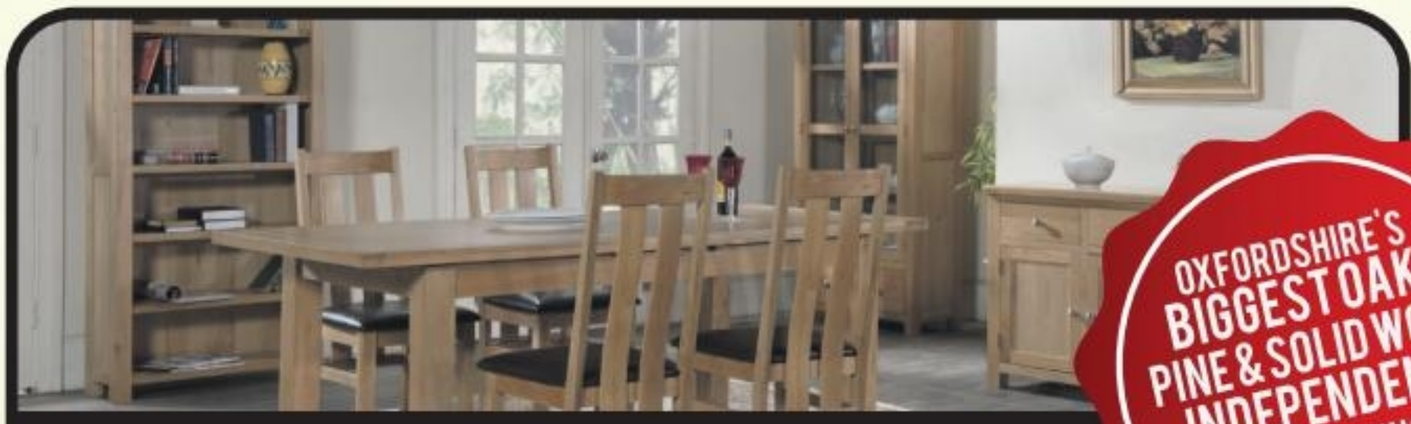

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Crash pictures to jog witness memory

By George Welch

POLICE have released shocking photographs of a seriously injured man as part of an appeal for witnesses to a 'fail to stop' collision.

Steven Wanna, 20, from Oxford, was in Nuneham Courtenay, when he was hit by a vehicle on Valentine's Day, police said.

Officers were called just after midnight on February 14 when Steven, pictured left, was found on the A4074, suffering from very serious injuries.

He is currently being treated in hospital and is in an "extremely serious condition". He may never fully recover, according to officers.

The road was closed between the Goldenballs and Berinsfield roundabouts on that day and subsequently while officers investigated the scene.

Steven's uncle, Charlie Koko, speaking on behalf of the family, said: "We just want to find out what happened to Steven that night and we want someone to come forward with any information which will help us."

Investigating officer PC Victoria Jones, based at the Serious Collision Investigation Unit in Reading, said: "As you see from the pictures, Steven is in an extremely serious condition and may never make a full recovery from his injuries.

"We are appealing for anyone who was in the area at the time and who may have noticed anything unusual in the road to contact us as a matter of urgency."

Contact police on 101 quoting URN 12 14/2.

Man is arrested after body of woman found

AN OXFORDSHIRE man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a woman died from a severe brain bleed.

The body of 47-year-old Samantha Blake-Mizen was discovered at a property in Ludgershall, near Aylesbury, around 12.20pm on Sunday, Thames Valley Police said.

She was confirmed dead at the scene by the emergency services.

A post-mortem examination carried out on Monday revealed the cause of death to have been a subdural haematoma.

Her next of kin have been informed.

Police have confirmed that a 43-year-old man from Thame was arrested on suspicion of murder on Monday and has been released on bail until April 10.

A scenewatch has been put in place at the property while police carry out their investigations.

Senior investigating officer Det Ch Insp Ailsa Kent, of the Thames Valley Police Major Crime Unit, said: "I understand that there will naturally be some concerns in the community following this incident.

"But I would like to reassure people that a full investigation is taking place, and that an arrest has been made in connection with the incident.

"We continue to support the family of the victim, at this very difficult time.

"People living nearby may see an increased police presence in the area while enquiries are carried out.

Call 101 with information.

Rio fun for youngsters

STUDENTS with autism experienced their own version of the Rio Carnival through a drumming and Portuguese song workshop at Begbroke-based LVS Oxford.

Youngsters played traditional Brazilian-made samba drums and percussion instruments under the expert guidance of David Walter, founder of Ola Samba from Cheltenham.

They also learned carnival songs, which they sang in Portuguese.

The day culminated in the whole school coming together to perform in the hall.

Sixth former Caitlin said: "I'm now thinking I might take up drumming!"

David Walter from Ola Samba said: "It was wonderful to see the students' confidence grow as they warmed to the activities."

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Schools told 'lessons on sex are now mandatory'

By Eva Astrienidou

SEX and relationship education are now mandatory under age-appropriate lessons, as announced by the education secretary.

In a written statement on Wednesday last week, the education secretary, Justine Greening, said that sex and relationships education introduced in 2000 is 'becoming increasingly outdated'.

She said: "It fails to address risks to children that have grown in prevalence over the last 17 years, including cyberbullying, 'sexting' and staying safe online."

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for education, Steve Harrod, said: "I very much share the Government's view that sex education is in need of modernisation in order to keep pace with some of the emerging challenges facing children and young people as we move deeper into the 21st century.

"There are a number of issues linked to the way in which children – including younger children – increasingly access information and interact with others in online settings, which have not been addressed adequately by our recent approach to the subject.

"Problems like cyberbullying, sexting and online pornography pose considerable risks, and it is perhaps more important than ever for children to learn about the importance of healthy and loving relationships, so they can navigate their way through what must surely be, at times, a very confusing world."

He said that lessons need to be age-appropriate, but in the end giving sex education an 'overhaul' and making it a compulsory requirement for schools is a 'common sense initiative to keep children safe'.

Award for student mental health charity

A CHARITY empowering university students to look after their mental health and to support friends experiencing such difficulties has won a prestigious national award.

Students Minds, established in 2009 by a University of Oxford student who experienced mental health difficulties, has been named one of the 10 winners of the 2017 GSK IMPACT Awards, which recognises excellence in charities improving health and wellbeing in their communities.

The charity will receive £30,000 in funding, as well as expert support and development from The King's Fund, which runs the awards programme.

• *Students Minds celebrate winning a 2017 GSK IMPACT Award*

Statistics reveal an estimated three-quarters of lifetime mental illness begins by the time people are in their mid-20s, making it particularly important that young people receive the care and support they need.

Based in Oxford and with only 10 staff members, Student Minds worked with 97 universities last year across England, Scotland, and Wales.

The charity offers peer support programmes run by student volunteers, and also delivers training to university staff to increase their understanding of mental health issues.

Student Minds' other projects include the Looking After a Mate campaign, which gives guidance for students who provide support to a friend experiencing mental health difficulties, and its #BestNightIn campaign, which challenges assumptions that students need to go out and drink excessive amounts of alcohol and instead celebrates the benefits of a quiet evening in.

Katie Pinnock, director of UK and Ireland Charitable Partnerships at GSK, said: "Student Minds is a small charity having a big impact on the promotion of good mental health in universities.

"Through its dynamic campaigns and support for volunteers, Student Minds has been really successful in raising awareness of mental health issues and equipping students with the tools they need to look after their own mental health.

"Student Minds is an outstanding charity that's achieved a lot in a relatively short amount of time, making it a worthy winner of a GSK IMPACT Award."

Rosie Tressler, chief executive of Student Minds, said: "While around a third of students may experience mental health difficulties at university, all members of the university community can benefit from building health literacy and coping skills to manage the ups and downs of life.

"Student Minds was founded to encourage students to talk about mental health and promote the idea that recovery is possible.

"We're thrilled to receive this GSK IMPACT Award, which recognises the importance of our work and the fantastic contribution made by our volunteers. The award will help us develop as an organisation and continue delivering support for students."

Student Minds will receive the prize at a ceremony at the Science Museum in London on May 18.

Thursday last week marked the annual University Mental Health day, with more than 100 universities participating in events under the theme of 'active mental health'.

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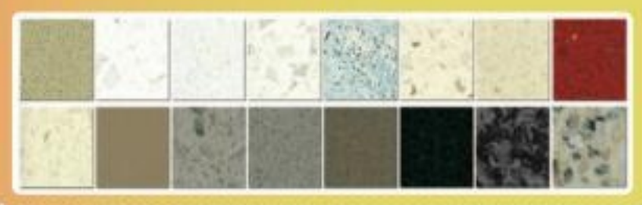

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Charity's delight as hospital room is named after it

By Eva Astrienidou

OXFORD Children's hospital has named one of its patient rooms in honour of Play2Give to mark their contribution.

The Play2Give room based at Melanie's ward, the teenage ward at Oxford Children's Hospital (CHOX), was officially unveiled on Wednesday last week.

The P2G team attended the small celebration, alongside supporters and sponsors, and some of the ward's nurses and hospital charity representatives.

As founder of P2G, Andy Baker had the honour of cutting the ribbon to the room.

A big cheque showcasing the charity's grand total raised for CHOX over the past decade, a whopping £40,165, was presented to Penny Hambridge, of the hospital charity, outside the hospital.

Andy said: "It was a really special moment to be able to see all of our hard work as a team's efforts rewarded with the unveiling of our room.

"We never imagined we would reach the £40,000 and see the day our room would become a reality, to benefit so many children for a lifetime to come.

"To achieve the room and in our 10th anniversary year is extra special and we are feeling very proud and over the moon.

"It was an overwhelming moment. Quite emotional too, to think we managed to raise all this money in a decade and to have a tribute given like this by the hospital to last a lifetime.

"To know we have contributed in such a special way that will go on to leave a lasting legacy is for us a truly magical, special and humbling feeling.

"It is certainly the proudest and most special achievement in P2G's history.

"It has been an incredible amount of hard and tireless work to achieve this and very often in difficult times and against the odds, but we couldn't be prouder.

"We hope it goes on to benefit so many teens and their families for generations to come.

"This honour in this way isn't just given to anyone so for a small group like us to be given a tribute in having a room named after P2G is something really special."

He added: "We hope that people will continue to support us so that we can continue to raise funds for the children's hospital and help even more young patients get the very best medical care and medical facilities and equipment that really does transform and save young lives."

P2G will celebrate its decade-long success of fundraising for local charities with a special 10th anniversary black tie ball in September, with proceeds going to CHOX and Headway Oxfordshire.

P2G has also been recognised at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust's Staff Recognition Awards, as the charity made the top three for the 'Supporter of the Year' gong last year.

Andy was a former patient at the hospital after suffering a brain injury at birth and undergoing brain surgery aged 12.

He was inspired by the treatment he received and has since dedicated himself to raise money for local charities including the hospital.

Since then, he has also earned the title of Oxfordshire Youth Award in 2013.

To donate to the charity's 10-year appeal, visit tinyurl.com/zksd8xx.

• *Andrew Baker, Dale Harris, Teresa Strike and Elaine Childs – together with supporters and sponsors. Above right, some of the Mel's Ward nurses and hospital charity reps*

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Young gymnasts in a twirl after sailing into UK finals

YOUNG gymnasts from Banbury are heading for their national championships after top class performances in a qualifying competition in Leicestershire.

Members of the Banbury Cross Twirling Club – aged four to 19 – took part in a range of disciplines including solo twirl, fancy strut, dance twirl, duos, two-baton and poise/personality.

Many of the girls competed and qualified in all six routines.

Rita Duarte, five, and six-year-old Billi McFadden celebrated their first ever wins, with gold in the tiny tots solo category, and the juvenile solo class respectively.

Baton twirling is a unique sport that incorporates gymnastics, acrobatics and dancing. The British championships will be held over the Easter weekend at the K2 Arena in Crawley.

Banbury coach Nichola Halford said: "Some of our girls were taking part in their first competitions and they came through with flying colours.

"I am really proud of what the club has achieved in what is a very competitive sport – and we will continue to work hard for the nationals."

• *Banbury Cross Twirlers after competing in the national championships qualifiers. Inset (centre) is Rita Duarte and (right) Billi McFadden after their first-ever victories.*

Animal carcasses dumped in bin bags at car park 15 times

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after animal remains were repeatedly left in bin bags at a Banbury car park.

Officers say there have been 15 separate incidents in February – on one date animals were dumped seven separate times.

Black plastic bin liners containing animal carcasses or bones were understood to have been found in the parking area behind shops at Ironstones.

Ironstones is green space park land in the Hardwick area Banbury and has open space for ball games and picnics and a children's play park.

Police are working with officers at Environmental Health and Trading Standards to ensure there is no risk to the public and to determine the source of the animals.

It is believed the remains are livestock or farm animals.

Sgt Paul Smith, of Banbury police station, said: "We would like to hear from anyone who may have seen anyone at Ironstones with black, plastic bags. It may be you saw individuals or vehicles acting suspiciously in the area. We would ask you to get in touch with the details.

"Aside from the distress caused to the public on finding these, there is clearly a health hazard if animal remains are not disposed of correctly.

"We believe the remains are of livestock or farm animals, so if you keep livestock and any of your animals have gone missing, ensure a report is made."

Anyone with information should call the 24hour non-emergency 101 number or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

News Bites

Pensioner duped

BANBURY: An elderly man was duped out of £600 then had a further £300 stolen in a distraction burglary.

A tradesman knocked on the victim's door in Springfield Avenue on February 28 and told him his roof cap stones were damaged, causing damp in the loft space.

The victim paid £600 cash for repairs and was told to go and open the loft hatch so it could dry out before work began. The man then stole a further £300 cash from the dining room.

The conman was driving a white van. He was described as white, in his thirties and 6ft tall with an English accent.

He was clean-shaven with a round face and was wearing a light green beanie hat, a navy blue anorak and was carrying a bound book containing roofing information.

Artists get ready

CHIPPING NORTON: Artists in West Oxfordshire are gearing up for this year's Art Weeks in May.

Artist and debut novelist Jan Harvey is dedicating her exhibition at Jan's Garden Gallery in Shipton-under-Wychwood to all things literary.

Works include paintings, glass, drawings and cards created around the theme of her book The Seven Letters.

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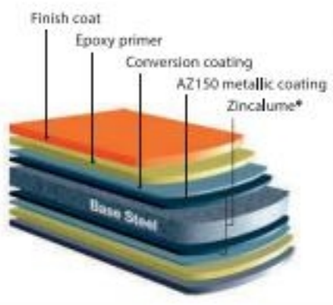

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£1.4m will help city's 'deprived'

OXFORD'S most disadvantaged communities will receive £1.4m of funding to help the voluntary sector.

On Monday, Oxford City Council announced plans to help organisations that support some of the city's most disadvantaged communities.

The council runs a community grants scheme every year and the 2017/18 funding, which totals £1,430,970, was agreed at a meeting in February.

The funding includes £518,379 to organisations providing advice and money management, as well as £442,279 to groups providing services to Oxford's homeless population.

Community safety projects will receive £61,082 and £15,000 will go to Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre to provide a telephone helpline service.

More than £230,000 will also be set aside to encourage inclusion in arts and culture.

Councillor Christine Simm, executive board member for culture and communities, said: "Oxford's community and voluntary sector is a lifeline for families all across the city. I am delighted that Oxford City Council has agreed another £1.4m to help their crucial work."

Eighteen of Oxford's 83 small areas are defined as deprived.

Young farmers moo-ved to tackle bike ride for charity

By George Welch

MEMBERS of the Abingdon Young Farmers Club are to bike nearly 200 miles to raise money for Oxford-based charity Blue Skye Thinking.

Keen cyclists Rebecca Hollands, Christina O'Hare, Isobel Mogford, David Hunt, Danny Humphrey, Verenique Beviere, Darren James and Lauren Moris will be cycling in tandem from Abingdon to their annual convention in Torquay – more than 190 miles.

The eight cyclists will leave Abingdon on April 18 and hope to arrive in the Devon town three days later.

Blue Skye Thinking was set up by Sally and Andrew Hall in memory of their son, Skye, from Abingdon, who died in 2014 from side effects of his treatment for medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.

The team is hoping to raise £1,000 towards the charity's Aim Skye High Appeal.

The appeal aims to raise £50,000 towards a three year post doctoral research position at the renowned Northern Institute for Cancer Research.

• *Young farmers from the Abingdon club will be riding 200 miles for the charity Blue Sky Thinking*

Rebecca said: "Every year, all Young Farmer Clubs nationwide choose a charity to fundraise for.

"We first met Blue Skye Thinking at a local event in the summer of 2016. It was here that we first heard the truly inspirational, yet sad, story of Skye and his brave battle with cancer.

"After also discovering that one of Oxfordshire Young Farmer Clubs' county leaders was friends with Skye's mum, we knew that this was our chosen charity for the year. It was a unanimous decision.

"We will be aiming sky high to raise money, but will also try to raise awareness of the charity Blue Skye Thinking and all the work they do in order to raise money for research into new treatments of childhood brain tumours."

More than 350 children a year in the UK face the devastating news they have a brain tumour, yet only just over one per cent of cancer funding goes towards research into them – the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers.

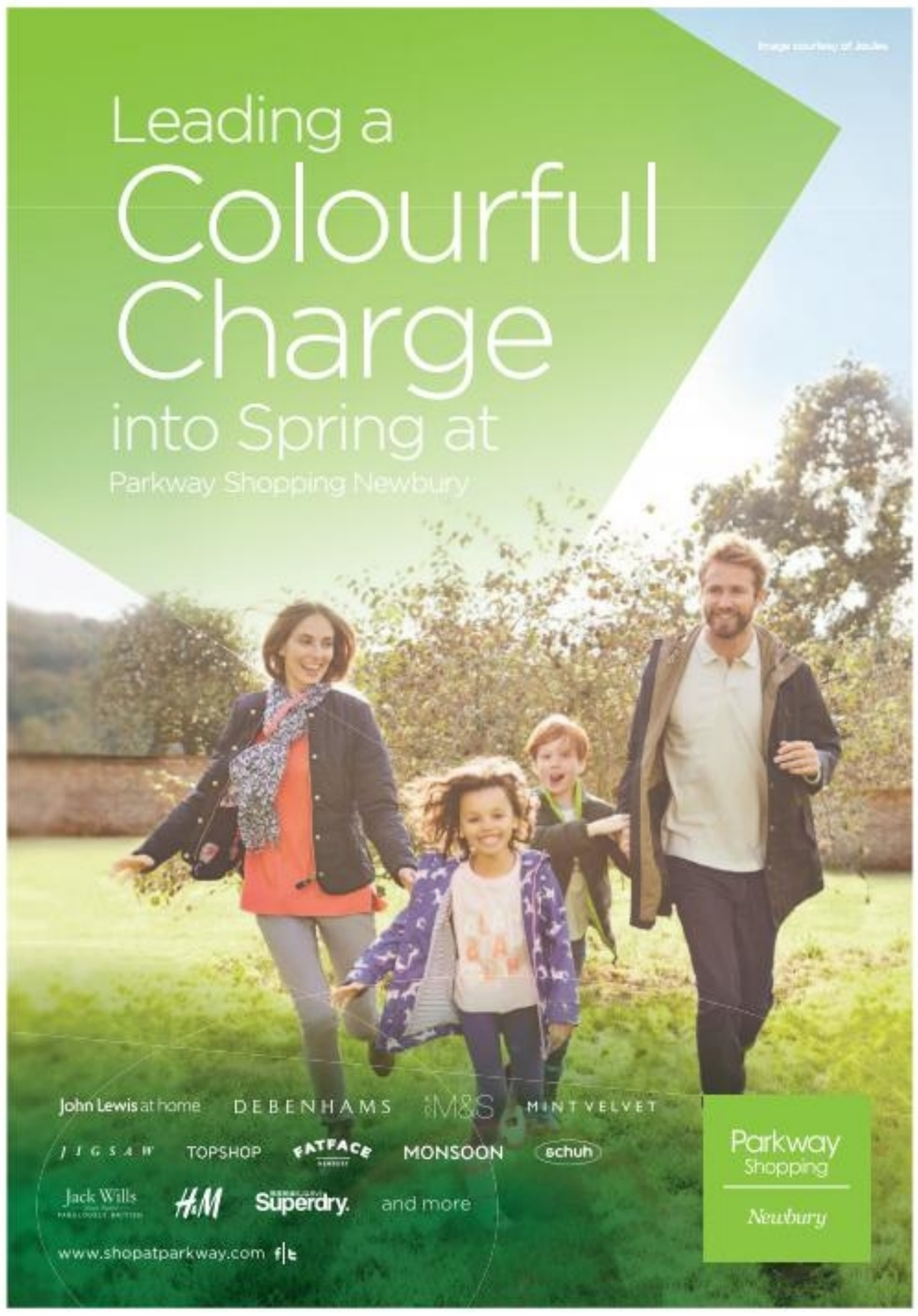
Mrs Hall said: "We have such a generous community in Oxford and once again they have delivered. Without local organisations getting involved and spreading the message we would not be where we are today, so thank you to the Young Farmer Club for choosing Blue Skye Thinking to support.

"Together we will continue to raise money for research to find better treatments."

To support the Young Farmer Club challenge, visit tinyurl.com/znrgohz

To support the appeal, visit tinyurl.com/je2377r or text UPUP52 £3 to 70070.

To plan a 'Skye High' event, email contact@blueskyethinking.org to receive a handy fundraising pack.



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Most pupils go to school they picked

By Eva Astrienidou

ALMOST nine out of 10 Oxfordshire children have been offered a place at their first-choice school for September.

A total of 88.64 per cent of pupils have received a first-preference offer for secondary school places they applied for.

A further 6.66 per cent have been offered their second choice and 1.53 per cent offered their third preference, leaving just 3.17 per cent of applicants being offered a place at a school not among their stated preferences.

More than 6,600 children were offered secondary school places this year, amounting to 85 more than in 2016, and 268 more than in 2015.

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education Steve Harrod said: "Once again we have been able to give the vast majority of families the news they were hoping to receive. Oxfordshire has a strong record on school place-planning and compares very favourably with other parts of the country when it comes to making first-choice offers.

"We are expecting to see our secondary school-age population continue to increase over the next few years, as the growth we saw at our primary schools over the last decade translates into greater demand for secondary school places.

"We are well placed to meet this challenge, both through our ongoing work with existing schools to identify expansion opportunities where they are needed, and our role in delivering entirely new schools where local housing growth demands their provision."

Cllr Harrod added: "Unfortunately, there are always circumstances where we can't offer everyone a place. An appeal process is available to families wishing to challenge the outcome of their application. Children's names can also be placed on 'continued interest' lists in case places become available at schools between now and September."

Diabetes nurses, from left, Perdy van den Berg, Penny Latimer and Jane Maskell in training

Nurses training hard for charity ride

THREE diabetes nurses from Oxfordshire will be cycling the Prudential Ride46London bike ride to raise money for a charity close to their hearts.

Penny Latimer, Jane Maskell and Perdy van den Berg are training intensively for the 46-mile ride on July 30 to raise money for Diabetes UK.

Penny Latimer, community diabetes specialist nurse, said: "We're all passionate about diabetes. Between the three of us we have built up over 40 years' experience of helping people with the condition and we wanted to raise money for a cause very close to our hearts."

Jane Maskell, community diabetes specialist nurse, said: "Doing Ride46London will be a great personal challenge for me as a non-cyclist, but I'm getting into training at my local gym. Knowing that I'm raising money to support the great work of Diabetes UK is an excellent incentive."

Perdy van den Berg, the clinical lead for the Oxfordshire Community Diabetes Service, said: "I am a keen cyclist and encouraged Jane and Penny to join me in a team challenge. Who knows where it may lead us, it could become an annual challenge?

"Cycling is a great, fun way to get active and we really hope others will be inspired to join us on the ride and raise money for Diabetes UK."

Jill Steaton, regional head for Diabetes UK in the south east, said: "Cycling has so many health benefits. I try to cycle whenever I can but 46 miles is quite a feat – I wish the ladies the very best of luck. They're an inspiration to us all."

Diabetes is a huge and growing problem, with more than 4.5 million people affected in the UK.

The charity supports people by offering information about managing the condition and funding the highest quality research into potential new treatments.

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• *Pictured from left: Mohammed Ali, Ormani Bernard-Sewell, Naasir Francis, Dior Jackson and Lawrence Morgan*

Third man locked up over drugs in clothes

By Samantha McGregor

THREE men from Birmingham have been jailed for supplying heroin and crack cocaine in Oxfordshire.

The latest, Dior Jackson, 18, of Bond Way, Cannock, had earlier admitted supplying class A drugs.

He was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court last Friday to four years in a young offenders institution because he was 17 at the time.

Two other men, Lawrence Morgan, 20, and Ormani Bernard-Sewell, 21, were sentenced at the same court last month after both admitted the same offences.

Two other men who have also been charged with supplying Class A drugs are on the run.

In October 2015 police raided a property in West Street, Banbury, during which clothes were thrown outside from a window on the top floor.

Five men were arrested and after the clothing was gathered up officers found more than "100 individual wraps of both crack cocaine and heroin" inside the clothes.

Det Con Leanne Narbett, of Banbury Police station, said: "The Judge at Oxford Crown, His Honour Ross, said Morgan and Bernard-Sewell 'both played significant roles motivated by financial advantage'.

"He recognised that so-called county lines of drugs supply are 'real and prevalent' in Oxfordshire and said that 'they were part of such a gang and the purpose was undoubtedly to deal drugs in a commercial drug dealing operation'.

"We want to emphasise that anyone who gets involved in drug supply at whatever level in the chain runs the risk of being convicted and, as Judge Ross said, cannot expect sentences other than those imposed in this case.

"We will continue to work tirelessly to stop those people coming to Oxfordshire purely for the purpose of targeting the vulnerable within the community and bringing misery to the area with the supply of drugs."

Morgan, of Crompton Close, Birmingham, was sentenced to two years – to run consecutively to a sentence currently being served of five years and eight months for possession of a firearm, ammunition and drugs.

Ormani Bernard-Sewell, of Sturge Close, Birmingham, was given four years plus a further three months for a bladed article offence in Birmingham

Mohammed Ali, 20, of Ventnor Avenue, Birmingham, is wanted after failing to appear at Oxford Crown Court for sentencing last Friday. Naasir Francis, aged 18, of Denby Close, Birmingham, failed to appear at court. He was charged with the offences last July.

Cheers! Pubs voted great to work at

AN Oxfordshire pub company has been named one of the best places in the country to work according to a national newspaper survey.

The Peach Pub Company was rated number 45 by The Sunday Times.

Now in its 17th year, the paper's Top 100 is an annual ranking and survey of the best of Britain's employers.

Hamish Stoddart, co-founder of Peach, which looks after 18 pubs and employs about 450 people, said "When my business partners Lee Cash and Jo Eames and I got together 15 years ago we set out to open one, really great pub.

"Now, to be recognised as one of the best companies to work for in the whole of the UK is a dream come true.

"Although we've won many awards from within the hospitality world for looking after our people and giving them inspirational training and development opportunities, getting recognition this time from outside our industry is even more meaningful.

• *Pub owners Hamish Stoddart, Lee Cash and Jo Eames*

"It's tough for a hospitality company – where the hours are long and the work is hard – to be recognised as a great employer.

"It's a challenge for pubs, too. The great British pub industry will only be saved if we carry on making our pubs fun, exciting places to come to and for our people to work in."

Peach has four pubs across Oxfordshire – The Fishes in North Hinskey, The Fleece in Witney, The Thatch and The James Figg both in Thame, and a training and support centre in North Aston.

News Bites

Splash the cash

THAME: Swimmers raised more than £4,000 after covering 2,899 lengths of the pool – the equivalent of 45 miles.

Twenty teams took part in the fifth annual Thame Swimathon at Thame Leisure Centre on Sunday, February 26.

The event was organised by the Rotary Club of Thame.

Thame mayor Linda Emery, a former Rotary Club president, handed out medals to all participants.

• *Missing man Keith Jervis*

Concern for Keith

BANBURY: Police are "concerned" for a 53-year-old man who has gone missing.

Keith Jervis was last seen on February 16 when he left the caravan park at Corner Meadow, Farnborough Road, Mollington, near Banbury, in a Silver Toyota Hilux with the registration BJ65EFT.

The car has since been found at a local retail park locked and secure. Both his mobile phones were in the vehicle.

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Everyone, keep Sunday, March 26th free as it is a very important day.
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spoiled this year within a reasonable and sensible budget?

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And don't worry or panic if you can't think of getting the perfect present this year for your mum.

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This could be the year that she got her favourite set of earrings or the one pair of shoes she has always wanted.

People need to remember that everyone only gets one mother, and it is down to you and your family to make sure that she feels loved and appreciative, as many mothers have sacrificed a lot.

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WIN tickets to see Oxford United Vs Coventry City at Wembley

The Oxfordshire Guardian has teamed up with Checkatrade, official title sponsor of the Checkatrade Trophy, to offer ten lucky fans the once in a lifetime chance to win four tickets to Wembley to see Oxford United take on Coventry City in the Checkatrade Final on April 2nd 2017.

Oxford United are on their way to the Checkatrade Trophy Final for a second year in a row and are unbeaten in the competition since last year's final. Michael Appleton's men struck late to beat Luton 3-2 away from home in the semi-final, setting up a grandstand cup final against a Coventry side who are visiting Wembley for the first time in 30 years.

Win tickets!

For your chance to win, just answer the following simple question:

Q: Who did Oxford beat to win their place in the Checkatrade Trophy Final?

Was it Chesterfield, Luton or Peterborough?

Closing date: Thursday, March 16

Checkatrade have fever pitch and are offering new customers 10% off your first year of membership. Just head to join today http://www.checkatrade.com/wembley. Over 1.2 million consumers visit the Checkatrade.com website every month looking for recommended tradespeople local to them. If you need a tradesperson, search by your location on www.checkatrade.com

Terms & Conditions

1. The prize consists of four tickets for ten winners to the game against Coventry City at Wembley on April 2nd 2017.
2. The package does not include travel to or from the ground or any hospitality at the ground
3. Entrants are reminded that tickets are issued subject to Wembley and EFL regulations and the Conditions of Entry relevant to those tickets
4. Fans are reminded that these tickets are in the Oxford United end and seats are amongst their supporters. Any away supporters found in home areas may be ejected from the ground either for the purposes of their own safety or for any other reason.
5. The competition is open to all UK residents with the exception of employees of Coventry City, Oxford United or Hatch Communications, their immediate families, agents or anyone else associated with the administration
6. No cash alternative will be offered
7. The competition closes at midnight Thursday, March 16.
8. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the promoter reserves the right to offer an alternative prize of equal or greater value
9. The promoter's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
10. All entrants must be willing to participate in publicity should they be a winner
11. We reserve the right at any time to cancel, modify or supersede the competition if, in our sole discretion, the competition is not capable of being conducted as specified in the competition rules

Checkatrade TROPHY | EFL

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
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Competition

WIN family tickets to Gulliver's

Eggs-travagant Easter fun for everyone at Gulliver's this spring!

WE'VE teamed up with Gulliver's family theme parks to give away 3 family tickets for unforgettable days out this Easter.

Throughout Gulliver's Easter Extravaganza, there are lots of 'eggstra' special activities planned at Gulliver's World in Warrington, Gulliver's Kingdom in Matlock Bath and Gulliver's Land in Milton Keynes.

Over the four day Easter bank holiday weekend there will be some very special appearances from the Easter Bunny plus amazing entertainment for you and your little chicks. Join the Gully Gang and enjoy Easter themed competitions and entertainment on the main stage, including the Easter Bunny Parade and the ultimate in springtime fun – the Big Bunny Bounce!

Gulliver's theme parks are open daily throughout their Easter Extravaganza which runs from 1st to 23rd April*, with a super selection of rides, shows and attractions to discover, all devised for children aged two to 13.

Closing date: Friday, March 24.

Car parking is always free at Gulliver's and there is a great selection of food on offer.

For full details of opening times and to book, visit www.gulliversfun.co.uk.

Win tickets

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket for four people to visit Gulliver's this Easter, answer this simple question.

Q: Which of these young animals isn't associated with Easter?

Bunny, Chick or Kitten?

T&Cs apply. See online entry form for details.

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Speaker (6)
8 Lay bare (7)
10 Exotic flowers (7)
11 Command (5)
12 Aristocratic (5)
13 Small parts (9)
16 Experts in abstract principles (9)
19 Egg-shaped (5)
20 Lid (5)
22 Likes better (7)
23 Relating to heat (7)
24 Turn around (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Delayed (3,3)
2 Sour (4)
3 Exaggeration (13)
5 Rebuilt (13)
6 Finger protectors (8)
7 Refreshed (6)
9 Musical composition (5)
14 Adjoining (8)
15 Conductive metal (6)
17 Have reality (5)
18 Parchment (4)
21 Improvise in music (4)

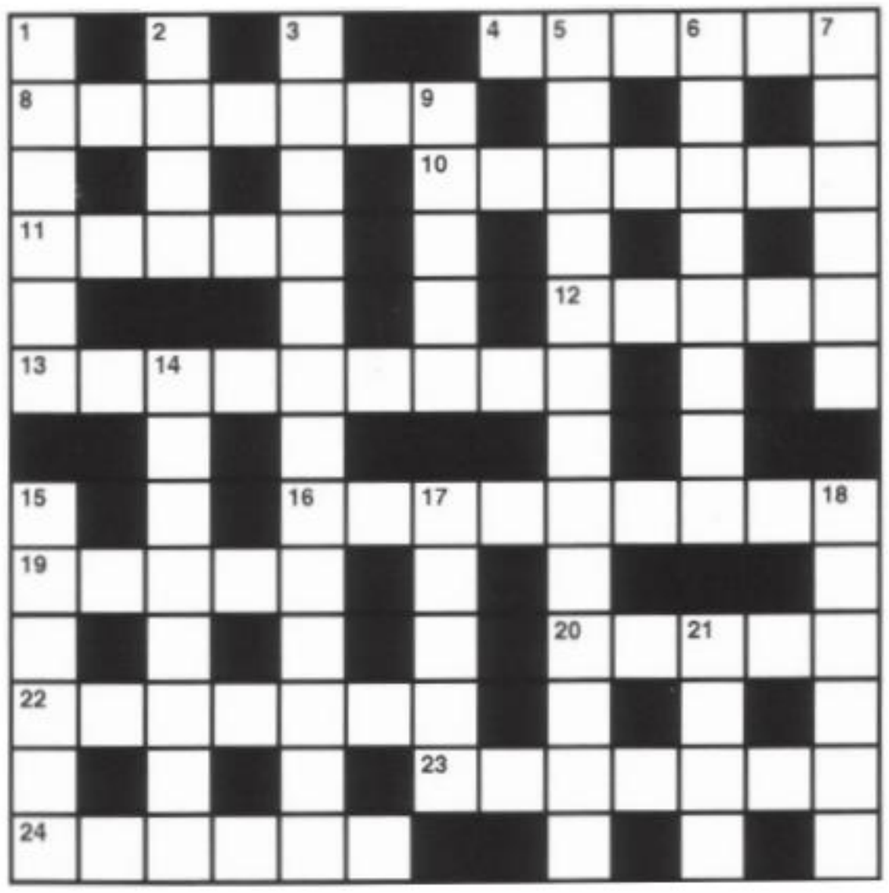
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Or cast out the players (6)
8 Talk to a golf ball? (7)
10 Agony of men engaged in a wrongful act (7)
11 The rest of the mind and body (5)
12 Part of this is always used for making rope (5)
13 It's very discouraging (9)
16 Will thank men in trial (9)
19 Behold anger of river (5)
20 The company is back in poor trim (5)
22 Send round a tip as wages (7)
23 Forever without a goal (7)
24 Majestic month (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Assembled a crowd to edit without it (6)
2 Sounds as if the image isn't working (4)
3 Lack of hope of those who otherwise need spare sets (13)
5 Special Yule current? (13)
6 Change over so he can protect one extremity (8)
7 Come to rest on the bench? (6)
9 The street has one piece of rock (5)
14 Aiming a gun under instruction (8)
15 Up the mountain mother's out giving blood (6)
17 Be frank. Call it by its name (5)
18 She impresses many characters (6)
21 No writer is unrestricted (4)



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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

	1		5					8
5		8	4			6		2
		6	1	3	8	7		
8					5		3	
7		3				9		4
	2		7					1
		5	8	9	7	4		
9		4			2	1		6
3					4		7	

	1	9		2		3	4	
6		3				8		7
9			6		3			4
		5				6		
3			1		5			2
7		4				1		5
	9	6		3		7	2	

5					9	1	7	
					5			4
	9			2			5	
					4	7	8	
2								9
	8	3	1					
	2			5			1	
1			6					
	4	6	7					3

This week's solutions

3	6	5	2	1	7	8	4	9
7	8	9	5	6	4	3	1	2
1	5	2	6	9	3	4	7	8
6	2	7	9	5	8	1	3	4
4	8	3	1	7	2	9	6	5
9	1	4	3	8	6	5	2	7
5	3	8	4	2	1	7	9	6
2	7	6	8	3	5	4	9	1
8	9	1	7	4	2	6	5	3

2	9	6	1	3	4	5	7	8
5	3	8	4	7	6	1	2	9
4	1	7	5	2	8	3	9	6
8	4	1	9	6	5	2	3	7
7	5	3	2	8	1	9	6	4
6	2	9	7	4	3	8	5	1
1	6	5	8	9	7	4	2	3
9	7	4	3	5	2	1	8	6
3	8	2	6	1	4	7	5	9

4	5	7	3	6	8	2	9	1
8	1	9	5	2	7	3	4	6
6	2	3	9	1	4	8	5	7
1	4	5	2	7	9	6	8	3
9	7	2	6	8	3	5	1	4
3	6	8	1	4	5	9	7	2
7	3	4	8	9	2	1	6	5
5	9	6	4	3	1	7	2	8
2	8	1	7	5	6	4	3	9

Quick Crossword

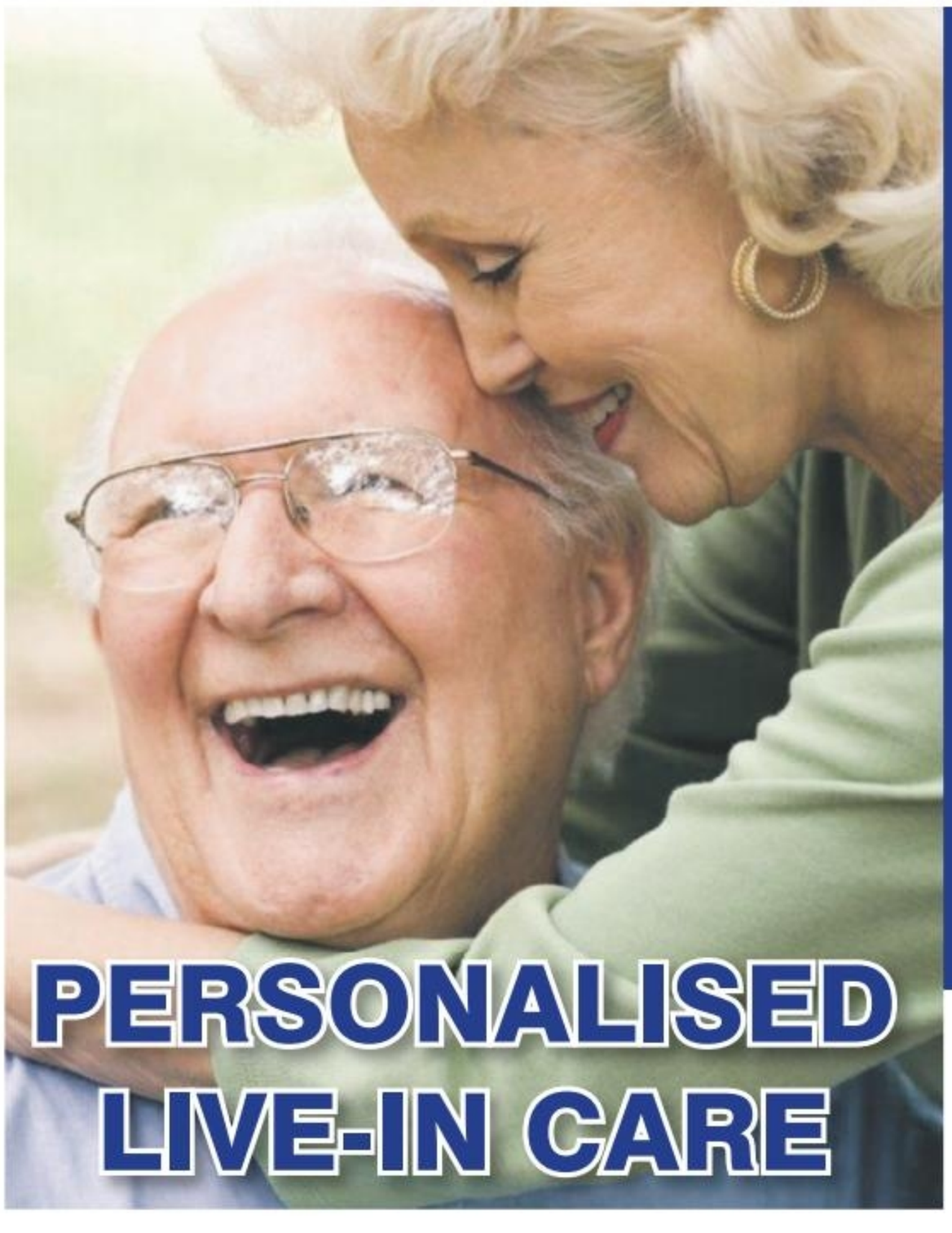
Across: 4 Orator 8 Uncover 10 Orchids 11 Order 12 Noble 13 Fractions 17 Theorists 19 Ovate 20 Cover 22 Prefers 23 Thermal 24 Rotate

Down: 1 Put off 2 Acid 3 Overstatement 5 Reconstructed 6 Thimbles 7 Rested 9 Rondo 14 Adjacent 15 Copper 17 Exist 18 Scroll 21 Vamp

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Actors 8 Address 10 Torment 11 Sleep 12 Sisal 13 Deterrent 16 Testament 19 Loire 20 Troop 22 Stipend 23 Endless 24 August

Down: 1 Massed 2 Idle 3 Desperateness 5 Christmastide 6 Overshoe 7 Settle 9 Stone 14 Training 15 Plasma 17 Spade 18 Typist 21 Open



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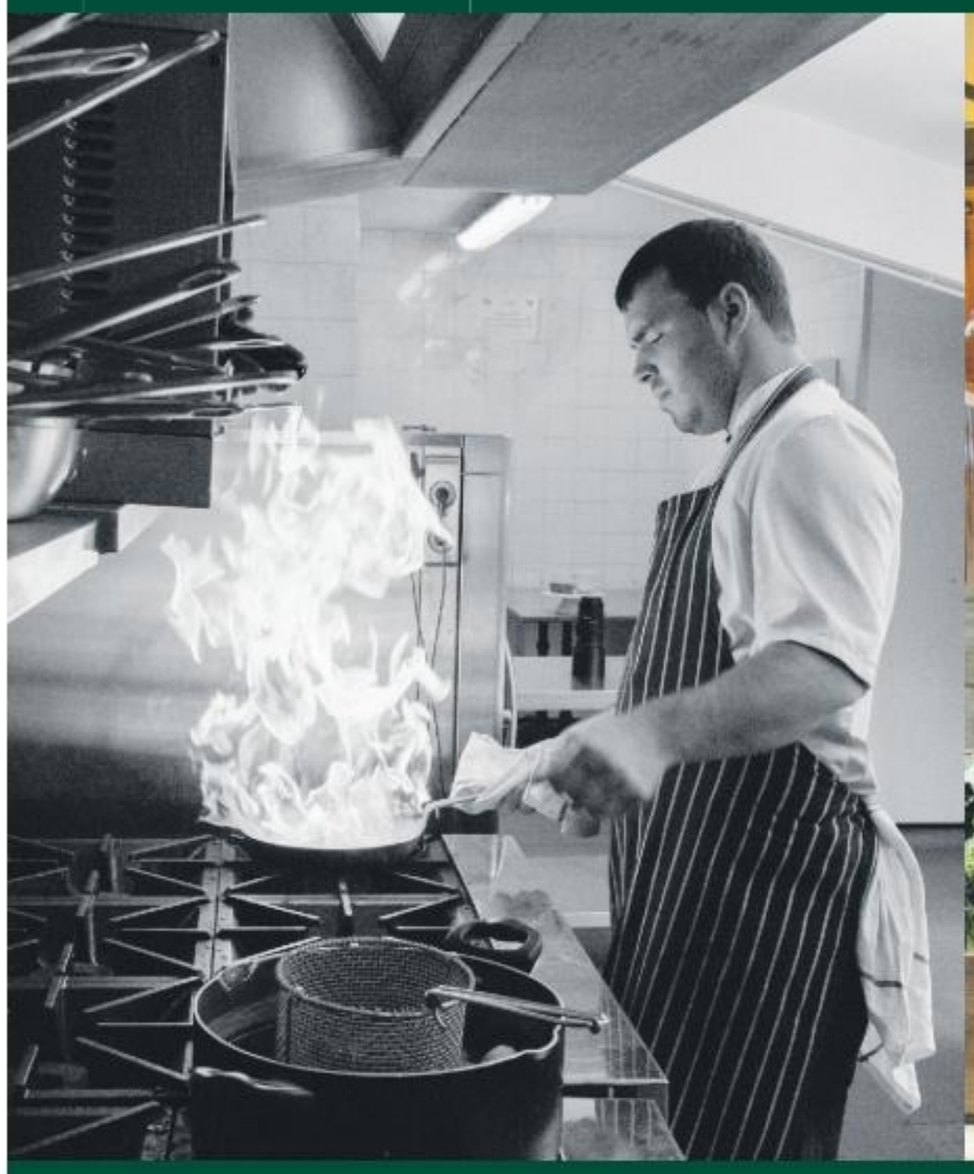

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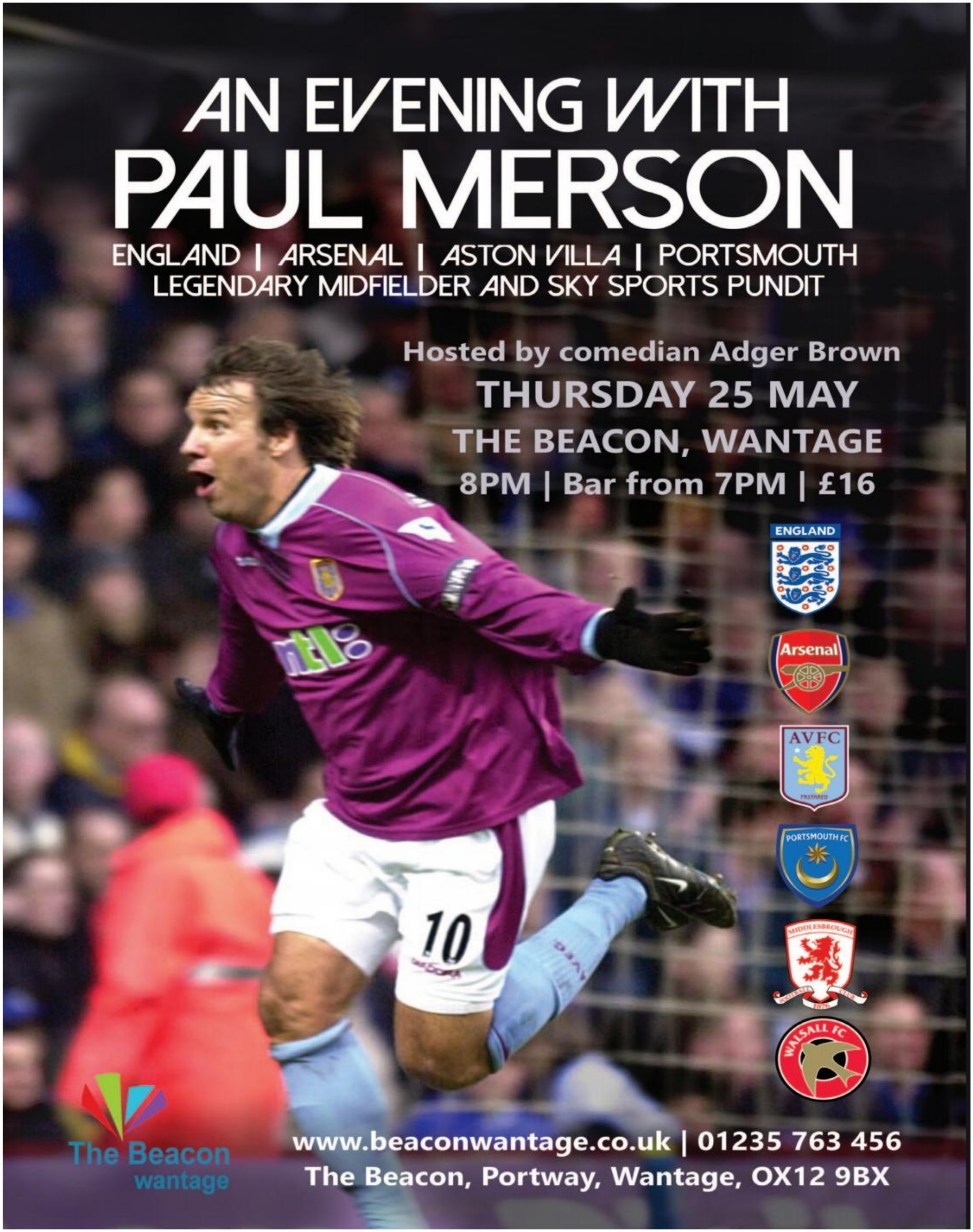
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See inside for more

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Saturday March 11th

BBC1

Casualty, 8.40pm

DAYTIME **11.30 Mary Berry Everyday** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus – FA Cup on the Road** (S) **1.00 BBC News** (S) **1.15 Bargain Hunt** (S) **2.15 Escape to the Country** (S) **2.45 FILM Kung Fu Panda (2008) (PG)** (S) **4.10 Final Score** (S) **5.10 Celebrity Mastermind** (S)(R) **5.40 BBC News** (S) **5.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.00 Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) **6.45 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief** (S)

7

8 **8.00 Who Dares Wins** (S)
8.40 Casualty Robyn takes matters into her own hands as David's behaviour becomes increasingly manic. (S)

9 **9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys** Agnes is excited about Rory's big day – until she meets the wedding planner. (S)(R)

10 **10.00 BBC News; Weather;** (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.20 Match of the Day Highlights of Bournemouth v West Ham United. (S)

11 **11.05 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights** Action from the sixth round. (S)
11.35 This Country (S)

AFTER 12 **12.00 Line of Duty** (S)(R) **1.00** Line of Duty (S)(R) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **2.05** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands, 8pm

9.30 Coast (S) **10.00 Natural World** (S)(R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **12.00 Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry** (S)(R) **1.00 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo** (S)(R) **1.30 FILM The Red Shoes (1948) (U)** (S) **3.40 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **4.10 University Challenge** (S)(R) **4.40 Only Connect** (S)(R) **5.10 Flog It!** (S)(R) **6.00 Natural World** (S)(R)

7.00 Natural World Part two of two. The new animals are proving quite a handful. (S)(R)

8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands Paul Murton heads to the northernmost spur of Skye. (S)
8.30 Dad's Army (S)(R)

9.00 Geri's 1990s: My Drive to Freedom Geri Horner shares her memories of the 1990s. (S)

10.00 Live at the Apollo With Frankie Boyle, Jack Carroll and Holly Walsh. (S)(R)
10.45 FILM LA Confidential (1997) (18) (S)

12.55 Taboo (S)(R) **1.55** Taboo (S)(R) **2.55 FILM Rabbit Hole (2010) (12)** Drama, with Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart. (S) **4.20** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway, 7pm

8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School (S) **9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time** (S)(R) **9.25 Alphabetical** (S)(R) **10.20 All Star Family Fortunes** (S)(R) **11.05 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **12.25 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** (S) **3.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** (S) **6.30 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.45 ITV News** (S)

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway The evening variety show continues. (S)

8.30 The Voice UK The remaining contestants face the third of four live knock-out rounds. Presented by Emma Willis. (S)

9.45 ITV News; Weather (S)

10.05 Lethal Weapon A case involving gun-runners and military technology involves Riggs personally. (S)(R)

11.00 FILM Rambo: First Blood Part ■ (1985) (15) Action adventure sequel, with Sylvester Stallone and Richard Crenna. (S)

12.50 Schofield's South African Adventure (S)(R) **1.25** Jackpot247 **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

Crufts 2017, 7pm

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid (S) **6.45 The King of Queens** (S)(R) **7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **10.55 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast** (S)(R) **1.00 Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.35 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **5.35 Channel 4 News** (S) **6.05 Dogs Behaving Badly** (S)

7.00 Crufts 2017 Clare Balding presents live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham. (S)

9.00 FILM Room (2015) (15) Premiere. Drama, starring Brie Larson and Jacob Tremblay. (S)

11.20 FILM The Adjustment Bureau (2011) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon and Emily Blunt. (S)

Channel 5

Live Boxing on 5, 10.20pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **10.30 Access 10.35 Benefits Britain: Me & My 14 Kids** (S)(R) **11.30 Benefits: On the Yorkshire Dole** (S)(R) **12.25 Benefit Beauty Queens** (S)(R) **1.25 Dance Moms** (S) **4.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** Two neighbour in Snowdonia National Park who ende up at loggerheads. (S)(R) **5.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles A vehicle transporting Jada Khaled is ambushed. (S)

8.00 NCIS The secretary of the US Navy seeks to save the life of a sailor with leukaemia. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship Highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship. (S)
9.50 Football on 5: Goal Rush (S)

10.20 Live Boxing on 5 Craig Kenned v Stephen Simmons. Coverage of the bout for the vacant British Cruiserweight title, which takes place at Motorpoin Arena in Cardiff, Wales. (S)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.10** Emmerdale **8.40** Coronation Street **11.10** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** The Voice UK **2.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.30** FILM: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) (PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35** FILM: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) (PG) Concluded. **4.25** FILM: King Kong (2005) (12) Fantasy adventure remake, starring Naomi Watts. **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** FILM: King Kong (2005) (12) Concluded. **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** FILM: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) (15) Comedy sequel, starring Jason Biggs. **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** FILM: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) (15) Concluded. **10.55** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **1.20** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 On the Buses **6.55** Murder, She Wrote **7.55** FILM: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) (U) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** FILM: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) (U) **9.45** FILM: Carry On Camping (1969) (PG) **10.45** FYI Daily **10.50** FILM: Carry On Camping (1969) (PG) **11.35** Inspector Morse **1.50** Rosemary & Thyme **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Carry On Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** Marchlands **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **8.00** She-Wolves: England's Early Queens **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.15** People's History of Pop **1.15** Blues America **3.15** Sounds of the Eighties **3.45** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Made in Chelsea **6.45** Melissa & Joey **7.40** Young & Hungry **8.35** Baby Daddy **9.35** How I Met Your Mother **10.30** Young & Hungry **11.30** FILM: Step Up (2006) (PG) Romantic dance drama, with Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan. **1.35** The Goldbergs **3.00** Black-ish **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** FILM: Mirror Mirror (2012) (PG) Fantasy, starring Julia Roberts. **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Red 2 (2013) (12) Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis. **11.15** Gogglebox **12.20** Celebs Go Dating **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube **4.45** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Come Dine with Me **11.35** Location, Location, Location **12.35** Coast vs Country **1.40** Rivers with Jeremy Paxman **2.45** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Jutland: WWI's Greatest Sea Battle **9.00** Japan's Tsunami: Caught on Camera **10.25** Japan's Tsunami: How It Happened **11.30** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.35** Father Ted **2.40** Japan's Tsunami: How It Happened **3.35** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Casper (1995) (PG) Supernatural family comedy, starring Christina Ricci. **1.00** Win Win (2011) (15) Comedy drama, starring Paul Giamatti. **3.10** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) (U) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Ray Romano. **4.55** Johnny English (2003) (PG) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **6.40** Morning Glory (2010) (12) Comedy, starring Rachel McAdams. **9.00** AVP: Alien vs Predator (2004) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Sanaa Lathan. **10.45** Hush (2008) (15) British road thriller, starring William Ash. **12.30** The Crazies (2010) (15) **2.30** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) (18) **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Deadly 60 **10.00** Top Gear **1.30** Motorway Cops **2.30** Storage Hunters UK **3.30** FILM: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991) (PG) Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner. **6.20** Gavin & Stacey **7.00** Not Going Out **9.00** Mock the Week **11.00** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **12.00** QI XL **1.00** Not Going Out **1.40** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **2.40** Parks and Recreation **3.30** Deadly 60 **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Tenko **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Tenko **5.00** One Foot in the Grave **6.30** A Fine Romance **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Maisie Raine **9.00** Taggart **11.00** Waking the Dead **1.20** The Ruby in the Smoke **3.10** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ninja Warrior **6.30** Futurama **8.15** Game Changers **8.45** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Kong: Skull Island Special **12.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2017 **1.00** Modern Family **2.00** MacGyver **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **6.00** Supergirl **7.00** The Flash **8.00** FILM: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) (12) Sci-fi adventure prequel, starring Hayden Christensen. **10.40** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.40** A League of Their Own **12.40** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **1.40** Police 10/7 **5.10** Ninja Warri **5.35** Futurama

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** David Attenborough's Galapagos **2.00** Making Attenborough's Galapagos **3.00** Without a Trace **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.20** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **11.55** Real Time with Bill Maher **1.05** High Maintenance **1.40** The Wire **2.50** Veep **4.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.10 Beauty and the Beast **6.50** Million Dollar Intern **7.50** The Bill **12.50** EastEnders **3.20** FILM: Mr Stink. Family comedy, starring Hugh Bonneville. **4.40** The Boy in the Dress **6.00** My Family **8.00** Inside the Ambulance **9.00** FILM: The Dukes of Hazzard (2005) (12) Comedy, starring Seann William Scott and Johnny Knoxville. **11.05** Grimm **12.00** Outnumbered **1.20** Almost Human **2.15** Boston's Finest **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

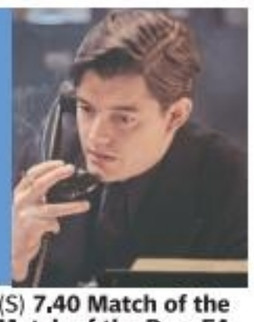
7.00 Cheers **8.00** Keeping Up Appearances **8.40** dinnerladies **10.00** Last of the Summer Wine **12.00** Boomers **12.45** Only Fools and Horses **4.00** FILM: Loo Who's Talking (1989) (12) Comedy, starring Kirstie Alley. **5.50** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **11.00** Bottom **11.40** Filthy, Rich and Catflap **12.20** Bottom Live **2.40** Bill Hicks – One Night Stand **3.15** jam **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football League Gold **6.45** Premier League Preview **7.15** Football Gold **7.45** Game Changers **8.15** Premier League Preview **8.45** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Premier League Preview **12.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **6.00** Live Under-20s Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Scotland (kick-off 6.15pm). **8.00** Rugby Gold **8.30** Nissan Game of the Day **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** Gary Neville: The Pundit **12.00** Premier League Highlights **1.30** Premier League Legends **2.00** Premier League Highlights **3.30** Premier League Legends **4.00** Premier League Highlights **5.30** Premier League Legends

Sunday March 12th

BBC1



6.00 Breakfast (S) **7.40 Match of the Day** (S)(R) **8.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights** (S)(R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.15 News** (S) **1.30 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup** (S) **4.00 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **5.00 Songs of Praise** (S) **5.35 BBC News** (S) **5.50 News** (S) **6.00 The Big Painting Challenge** (S)

7.00 Countryfile Adam Henson presents clips from the Countryfile Archive. (S)

8.00 Call the Midwife Sister Julienne oversees the opening of a family planning clinic. Last in the series. (S)

9.00 SS-GB The army imposes martial law and rounds up members of the resistance. (S)

10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
10.30 Match of the Day 2 Highlights of Liverpool v Burnley. (S)

11.00 Would I Lie to You? With Ben Miller, Henning Wehn, Doon Mackichan and Alex Brooker. (S)(R)
11.30 American High School (S)

AFTER 12
12.20 The Celebrity Apprentice USA (S) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.45** BBC News (S)

BBC2

9.00 Countryfile (S)(R) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.30 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day** (S)(R) **12.00 Simply Nigella** (S)(R) **12.30 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.15 Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones** (S)(R) **2.20 FILM Shall We Dance? (2004) (12)** (S) **4.00 The House That £100K Built** (S)(R) **5.00 Back to the Land with Kate Humble** (S)(R) **6.00 Six Nations Rugby Union** (S)

7.00 Robot Wars Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the second heat, as eight teams battle it out to win a single place in the grand final. (S)

8.00 Top Gear Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris go on a road trip across the US in convertible supercars. (S)

9.00 Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall The naturalist travels down the Baliem River in New Guinea from its source to the sea. (S)

10.00 FILM The Face of an Angel (2014) (15) Premiere. Fact-based drama, with Daniel Bruhl, Kate Beckinsale and Cara Delevingne. (S)

11.40 Women's Six Nations Highlights Action from the penultimate week of the championship. (S)

12.10 Taboo (S)(R) **1.05** Taboo (S)(R) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **3.05** Holby City (S)(R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

9.30 Countrywise: Guide to Britain (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **10.55 Wild Australia with Ray Mears** (S)(R) **11.25 Chopping Block** (S)(R) **12.25 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (S)(R) **1.25 ITV News** (S) **1.30 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **2.45 Little Big Shots** (S)(R) **3.45 The Chase** (S)(R) **4.45 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **5.45 ITV Regional News** (S) **6.00 ITV News** (S) **6.15 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule** (S)(R) **6.45 Five Gold Rings** (S)

7.45 The Voice UK Emma Willis hosts the final night of the live knock-out rounds. (S)

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital The first rains of the monsoon season start to fall as the tension between Lydia and Ruby rises. Last in the series. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.20 The Nightly Show Best Bits Highlights of the second week of the entertainment show. (S)
10.50 Peston on Sunday (S)(R)

11.50 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights Action from the semi-finals of the competition.

12.40 Jackpot247 3.00 Chopping Block (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen 5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

6.15 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.25 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **1.30 FILM Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) (PG)** (S) **3.20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (S)(R) **4.25 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **5.30 Channel 4 News** (S) **6.00 Crufts 2017** Live coverage of the final day of the dog show. Last in the series. (S)

8.30 The Jump Live Final The celebrities compete in the Snow Cross and Ski Cross events. (S)

9.30 Homeland Carrie gets bad news, Saul makes a plan and Quinn accepts his situation. (S)

10.30 War Child Documentary following three child refugees from Afghanistan and Syria making a dangerous journey across Europe in the hope of finding sanctuary. (S)

11.40 Gogglebox Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (S)(R)

12.45 FILM Mama (2013) (15) Horror, starring Jessica Chastain. (S) **2.25** The Last Leg (S)(R) **3.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) **4.15** Shipping Wars UK (S)(R) **4.55** Jamie's Comfort Food (S)(R) **5.05** Fifteen to One (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **10.30 Football on 5: The Championship** (S)(R) **11.20 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (R **11.50 The Gadget Show** (S)(R) **12.50 FILM Gorillas in the Mist (1988) (12** (S) **3.20 Celebrity Carry on Barging** (S)(R) **5.15 Cruising with Jane McDonald** (S)(R) **6.10 Inside Windsor Castle** Events that shaped the monarchy between 1952 and 1972. (R

7.00 Inside Windsor Castle A look a 20 years in the life of the Queer and her family. Last in the series. (S)(R)

8.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door A former soldier takes the law into his own hands. (S)(R)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 FILM The Equalizer (2014) (15) Premiere. Action thriller, with Denzel Washington and Chloe Grace Moretz. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm. (S)

11.35 FILM Harry Brown (2009) (18) Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer. Edited to fit time slot (S)

1.20 SuperCasino 3.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh (S)(R) **4.00** Witches: A Century of Murder (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels o Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **6.30** Emmerdale **9.10** Coronation Street **11.40** The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome: 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.00** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.20** FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005) (U) Period fantasy, starring Emma Thompson. **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005) (U) Concluded. **7.15** FILM: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) (PG) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** FILM: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) (PG) Concluded. **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Inspector Morse **8.00** Heartbeat **10.05** Murder, She Wrote **11.10** FILM: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) (PG) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** FILM: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) (PG) **1.00** A Touch of Frost **3.05** FILM: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James. **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** FILM: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) (PG) Concluded. **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Carry On Forever **11.05** FILM: The Constant Gardener (2005) (15) Political thriller, with Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz. **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** FILM: The Constant Gardener (2005) (15) **1.30** Inspector Morse **3.20** May the Best House Win **5.05** On the Buses **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **8.00** Dazzling Duets at the BBC **9.00** FILM: The Lunchbox (2013) (PG) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Irrfan Khan and Nimrat Kaur. **10.40** Sound Waves: The Symphony of Physics **11.40** The Horizon Guide to Mars **12.40** Edwardian Insects on Film **1.40** Bullseyes and Beer – When Darts Hit Britain: Timeshift **2.40** Dazzling Duets at the BBC **3.40** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Made in Chelsea **6.50** Melissa & Joey **7.40** Baby Daddy **8.40** Hollyoaks **11.15** FILM: Planet 51 (2009) (U) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Dwayne Johnson. **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** Black-ish **2.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** FILM: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) (12) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** FILM: Sleepy Hollow (1999) (15) Horror, starring Johnny Depp. **12.05** Celebs Go Dating **1.10** Celebs Go Dating: The Finale **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** Gap Year **3.55** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Building the Dream **10.00** Walks with My Dog **11.00** Vet on the Hill **12.00** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Nazi Megastructures **9.00** Father Ted **10.05** Man Down **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.10** Man Down **2.10** Nazi Megastructures **3.10** Food Unwrapped **3.40** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) (PG) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Roddy McDowall. **1.00** Dunston Checks In (1996) (PG) **2.45** King Kong (1976) (PG) Fantasy adventure remake, starring Jeff Bridges. **5.25** Carry On Regardless (1961) (U) Slapstick comedy, starring Sid James. **7.20** Chronicle (2012) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Dane DeHaan. **9.00** Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011) (12) Action adventure sequel, starring Tom Cruise. **11.35** High Crimes (2002) (12) Thriller, starring Ashley Judd. **1.50** Magic Magic (2013) (15) **3.55** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.30 Top Gear Patagonia Special **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **11.00** Traffic Cops **12.20** Jay Leno's Garage **2.20** Top Gear **4.20** Best of Red Bull Soapbox Race **5.20** Top Gear Patagonia Special **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **10.00** QI XL **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** Crackanory **12.30** Mock the Week **1.10** Mock the Week New Year's Eve Special **1.50** The Last Man on Earth **2.15** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **3.05** Parks and Recreation **3.30** Crackanory **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.00 Last Tango in Halifax **8.00** The Bill **12.00** Mansfield Park **4.00** Catherine Cookson's The Tide of Life **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.50** New Tricks **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Ninja Warrior **8.00** Futurama **9.00** Supergirl **10.00** The Flash **11.00** WWE Raw Hits **12.00** Futurama **1.30** Modern Family **6.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Wild Things **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Force: Essex **1.00** Stop, Search, Seize **2.00** Arrow **3.00** Air Ambulance ER **3.50** Police 10/7

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** Without a Trace **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Fortitude **10.00** Billions **11.10** FILM: Phil Spector (2013) (15) Fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino and Helen Mirren. **1.00** The Wire **2.15** Veep **4.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.00 Beauty and the Beast **6.50** Bondi Rescue **7.20** FILM: Mr Stink. **8.40** The Boy in the Dress **10.00** MasterChef USA **1.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **2.00** Doctor Who **4.00** My Family **6.00** Outnumbered **8.00** Honey I Bought the House **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with James Corden **10.00** Jonathan Creek **11.10** Code Black **12.10** Outnumbered **12.50** The Honourable Woman **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **7.50** dinnerladies **9.05** The Two Ronnies **10.00** Boomers **10.35** One Foot in the Grave **12.00** Only Fools and Horses **2.00** FILM: Look Who's Talking (1989) (12) Comedy, starring Kirstie Alley. **3.50** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **11.00** The Thick of It **11.40** Psychoville 2 **12.20** Limmy's Show **1.40** House of Fools **3.15** Yes, Prime Minister **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Premier League Legends **6.30** Premier League Highlights **9.00** The Sunday Supplement **10.00** Goals on Sunday **11.30** Live SPFL Football. Celtic v Rangers (kick-off 12.00pm). **2.30** Fight Night **3.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Liverpool v Burnley (kick-off 4.00pm). **6.30** SPFL Highlights **7.00** Football Gold **7.30** Live La Liga Football. Real Madrid v Real Betis (kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Premier League Highlights **10.30** Goals on Sunday **12.00** Premier League Highlights **12.30** SPFL Highlights **1.00** Goals on Sunday **2.30** Premier League Years **4.30** Premier League Highlights **5.00** SPFL Highlights **5.30** Premier League 100 Club

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By James Richings

FOR five days you'll be able to go back to the Fabulous 50s when Grease arrives at the New Theatre.

Based on the popular 1978 film, Danny, Sandy, Rizzo, Kenickie and the gang will all be at the New Theatre from Tuesday, March 28 to Saturday, April 1 as they embark on a 10-month tour across the UK.

Louisa Lytton who plays Rizzo at the George Street theatre, revealed she can draw on similarities with her most notable role to help get into character.

Louisa played Ruby Allen on EastEnders from 2005 to 2006.

"My character in EastEnders (Ruby Allen) and Rizzo are similar because they're both 16-years-old and they've had to act mature because they've had so much go on in their lives already," she told The Oxford Paper.

"I grew up watching the film and I love it – I think the acting is amazing so it does help (watching the film getting into character) but you shouldn't rely on that.

"You need to make the role your own so I don't really watch stuff like that too much because then you'll start to imitate the original character rather than doing your own thing."

The musical's visit to Oxford is the second stop of their 10-month tour, which will see the gang travel from Sunderland to Torquay.

Expect popular numbers such as Summer Nights, Greased Lightin', Hopelessly Devoted to You and many more giving audiences every opportunity to sing along.

And that interaction with the audience is something Louisa is looking forward to.

"That's why I love theatre because you get that instant response from a live audience, especially in a show like this where the audience can interact and get involved," she said.

"Don't get me wrong, I love film and TV but with live theatre, there's no other feeling.

"Also, I think it's important for all kids to go to the theatre because it's a time where they have to put their phones in their pockets, totally switch off and be engaged in something that isn't on a screen.

"Every single person sees themselves in a character on stage or on TV, and that's why the show works so well because they can relate to a specific character on stage.

"And even for us as actors, during rehearsals we're saying 'oh, we were like that at school' so it's a typical teenage thing – so it will relate to them well."

Tickets cost from £15 to £51.50.

Visit http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/grease/new-theatre-oxford for more details

You're not mad...

COMEDY: Jenny Eclair arrives at The Theatre Chipping Norton on Saturday, March 18.

The 56-year-old arrives at the Spring Street venue as part of her How to Be A Middle Aged Woman (Without Going Insane) UK tour.

This performance is a repeat of her 2015 visit. It begins at 7.45pm and tickets cost £19.

Taking people on

COMEDY: Reginald D Hunter is on the road again, and he'll be at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury on Sunday, March 17.

He comes to the Spiceball Park venue as part of his Some People v Reginald D. Hunter preview, in which he will talk about his life since moving to the UK.

It starts at 8pm. Tickets £17.

Lighting up screen

FILM: The Oscar-winning Moonlight will be screened at the Corn Exchange in Wallingford on Sunday and Monday.

Starring Trevante Rhodes, Naomie Harris and Mahershala Ali as a gay black man living in the US.

Ali won an Oscar for his performance.

Tickets cost £7.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Always popular Laura's back

By James Richings

LAURA Marling's new album will be released tomorrow, Friday, March 10, but it didn't come without challenges.

The folk musician admitted she originally wrote Semper Femina 'through the eyes of a man writing about a woman' but realised that 'you didn't need to write it from a man's perspective'.

And as she gears herself up for her visit to the O2 Academy on Monday, Laura hopes the record will strike a chord with women all over the country.

"The title comes from a Virgil poem and the full quote from the poem is 'Varium et mutabile semper femina,'" she said.

"I might be pronouncing it wrong but the translation is 'fickle and changeable, always a woman', so it's better off as just 'always a woman'.

"We are somewhat accustomed to seeing women through men's eyes, and naturally that was my inclination to try and take some power over that.

"But very quickly I realised that the powerful thing to do was to look at women through a woman's eyes.

"It was a little stumble at the beginning of the record, a self conscious stumble – but yes that's where that came from."

Laura burst onto the scene in 2008 when her debut album Alas, I Cannot Swim proved to be very popular with folk enthusiasts and critics.

It led the then 18-year-old to her first Mercury Prize nomination.

Her follow up albums have also gained her similar success with I Speak Because I Can (2010) earning her a Brit and NME Award in 2011.

The album was also her first to make it into the top 10 of the UK album charts, with her next records, A Creature I Don't Know (2011), Once I Was an Eagle (2013) and Short Movie (2015), all following suite.

But in recent years, Laura has turned her attention to directing music videos, and hopes to do more of it in the near future.

"The directing was amazing as I don't often get the opportunity, or I've never been inclined to give visual representation to my music personally." Laura said.

"It's become the way that music is released now is to have a visual accompaniment.

"And so to give my lucid dreaming quality to this, which is where I get a lot of imagery from, to give that form was an amazing experience requires a lot of people to be in that image with you.

"So you have to draw so many people in to that image with you."

"That annoying extra prop that costs lots of money, has to be there because it has symbolic value.

"It was fun, really fun."

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £23.06.

X Factor at the O2

MUSIC: Former X Factor contestant Lucy Spraggan will be at the O2 Academy on Wednesday, March 15.

The 25-year-old arrives at the Cowley Road venue to perform tracks off her latest album I Hope You Don't Mind Me Writing.

Lucy appeared on the X Factor in 2012. Tickets cost £16 and it starts at 7pm.

A proper Charlie!

COMEDY: Comedian Charlie Baker will be at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot.

Coming to the Station Road venue with his Charlie Baker is the Hit Polisher tour, the show contains Charlie's gags and Sean Hargreaves, who will perform popular songs with a 'polish' on the organ.

Tickets cost from £12 to £15 and it starts at 8pm.

A rough night out

MUSIC: Witney-based covers band Roughcut Ruby will be performing at The Nag's Head in Abingdon on Friday, March 17.

Richard Horrocks on bass, Paul Haines on drums, Jim Smith on guitar, and vocalist Helen Harrison will play hits from the likes of Maroon 5, The Wombats, and Stevie Wonder.

The free gig starts at 9pm.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Maddy's lifetime in music

By James Richings

MADDY Prior has been in the music business for nearly 50 years.

The 69-year-old, who has been a member of bands such as Steeleye Span and The Carnival Band has travelled all over the world, entertaining folk fans far and wide.

But she'll make her debut at the Holywell Music Room in Oxford on Sunday, March 19.

She'll be joined by fellow musicians Giles Lewin, one of the founders of Bellowhead and Hannah James, who will embark on a solo tour in April.

The trio will perform tracks off their album 3 For Joy.

Their inaugural gig at the Holywell Street venue will have a 'mixture of material'.

"The three of us are working on a new album with lots of songs about birds, and we will also be doing the Hare, which is a piece I wrote a while ago," she said.

"The Hare has been resurrected which is really lovely.

"We will also do some traditional pieces from our album 3 For Joy, so it will be a mixture of material."

In the past half a decade, Maddy has been part of 51 albums releases, with 16 of those being solo albums.

Maddy Prior and top right, Hannah James and below, Giles Lewis Hannah's picture: www.ellylucas.co.uk

Best known for sharing her vocals on other records, Maddy has worked with many performers in her career.

They vary to collaborating with her daughter Rose Kemp to the 23 members of Steeleye Span.

So you can imagine choosing her most memorable collaboration was a hard question for Maddy to answer.

"I have enjoyed playing with all of them so I couldn't isolate one," she said. "I enjoyed playing live with Status Quo, and of course a lot of the work we have done with Steeleye has been fantastic.

"It's been a joy to work with Hannah and Giles, which is a lot more focussed and sparse, a lot of a capella harmony, very different in its energy level, but very precise."

Maddy added: "There is something fantastic about singing particularly and making music with other people.

"It's a real community effort, and involves strains and stresses of course, and sometimes isn't so easy in many ways, but it's what I have learned how to do, and what I enjoy doing the most.

Tickets cost £18.15 and it starts at 7pm.

Leech in the city

MUSIC: London-based covers band Leech will be gigging at The Bell in Wantage on Saturday, March 11.

The trio will perform songs from The Kings of Leon, Pink Floyd, Nirvana, Kaiser Chiefs, Sex Pistols, The Jam, Oasis, The Who and many more at the Reading Road venue.

The free gig starts at 5pm.

Never gonna give up

MUSIC: 80s singing sensation Rick Astley will be at the New Theatre on Saturday, March 18.

The singer-songwriter, known for his best selling hit Never Gonna Give You Up, arrives at the George Street venue following the release of his latest album 50, which reached number one in the UK.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £26.65.

Enjoy the craic!

MUSIC: High Wycombe based band Hustler will be at O'Neill's on George Street, Oxford next Friday, March 17.

The five-piece group will showcase popular hits by The Killers, Taylor Swift, U2, Daft Punk, Lenny Kravitz, Bruno Mars and many more.

The free gig will start at 9.30pm.

"Best bit of the weekend: Sunday Lunch!"

I defy anyone to not experience a watering of the mouth when the words "Sunday lunch" are spoken!

Memories of going to a restaurant or local pub to enjoy hearty platefuls of roasted "this and that" all smothered in thick gravy is enough to send anyone's heart racing at the sheer thought!

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The new menu sees Roast Sirloin of Beef return as a popular favourite, as well as Herb Crusted Hake and Honey & Lemon Roasted half crown of Chicken (all hearty dishes indeed). Starters include Pan-Seared Scallops and Chicken & Basil Ravioli but also some delicate touches from chef such as Artichoke, Blood Orange & Feta Salad.

If you make it to puddings (.....always an "if") then favourites like Cheese & Biscuits will always delight as well as Sticky Toffee Fool, Chocolate & Mint Parfait and my personal delight Banana & Raisin Brioche Bread and Butter Pudding!

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Mon, Mar 13, 7pm
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Laura Marling, one of the most talented and prolific young musicians of a generation, announces a UK tour in support of her highly-anticipated sixth studio album, Semper Femina.

Tue, Mar 14, 7.30pm
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Fri, Mar 17, 7.45pm
The Theatre, Chipping Norton
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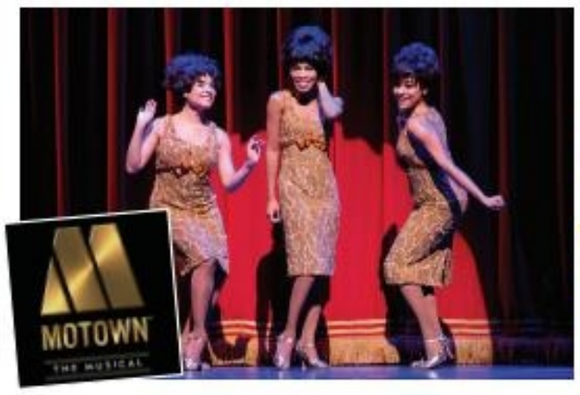

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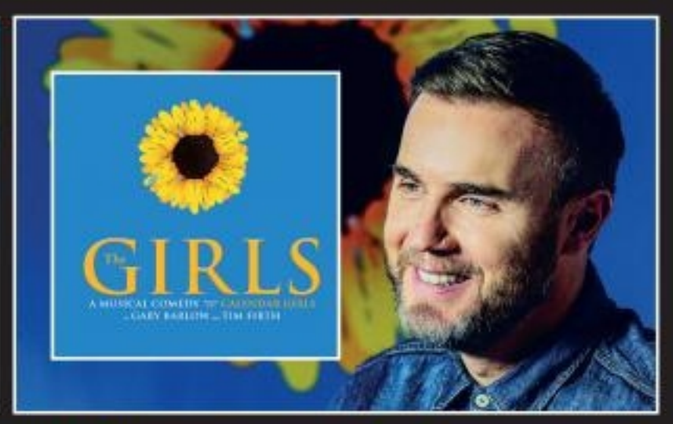

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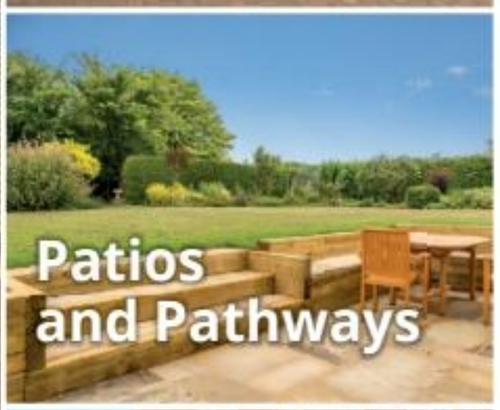

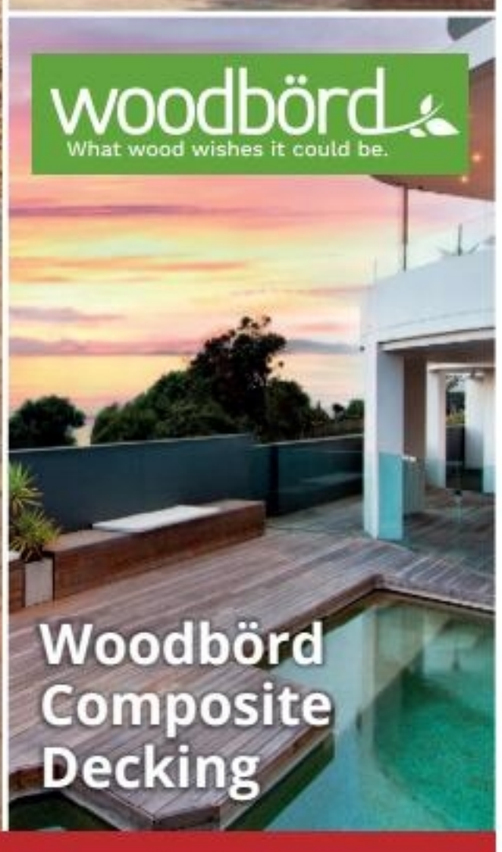

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Ford Fiesta ST200 - a tweaked ST

By **Tony Yates**

AS a child I used to spend most of my weekends watching Bodie & Doyle strut their stuff on TV, whilst also watching them messing about doing handbrake turns and smoking the tyres around the streets of London in a selection of cars from the likes of British Leyland and Ford to name but a few.

Of course as you get older - reality slips in and you realise it was all fake and just for the purpose of TV entertainment – but as a young boy, it didn't stop me spending many hours in my garden acting out scenes from the latest episode where I was the good guy in my Ford Fiesta XR2 chasing the baddies.

Even now 30 years on, Ford's ST200 has started to ignite all my senses and prove once again why Ford continues to dominate the 'Hot Hatch' arena.

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I also expected the little Fiesta to sound a little wheezy – but to be honest – I was wrong about that too. Because instead what you do get is something that sounds like the Knights Templars are having their own conquest right under your seat. Take it from me; it really is the most wonderful noise you can hear bellowing from that Eco Boost engine.

On the Road

As with all of Ford's hot hatches – it changes direction like it's on rails and it holds the road like a F1 car on super sticky slicks. Don't get me wrong, it does have its faults. But when it comes down to getting it on - nothing on the road as small as the ST200 can even get close to how it handles on the twisty stuff.

Plus, Ford has also stiffened up the suspension and updated the front anti-roll bar, meaning the ST200 now feels more solid than a standard ST - which also helps improve the ride without the need for back surgery every few weeks.

Safety and Technology

On the inside you get Recaro seating and branded ST interior details – but I found the Sat-Nav/Radio far too complex. I am not joking either – I actually think it's more complex than a Rubik's Cube. But then again I am not that tech savvy - so maybe I need to take in some training or read the handbook.

Also, as its the ST200 you also get a lot of additional features such as; cruise control, privacy glass, Thatcham Cat1 alarm, full ST bodystyling kit, unique ST200 badges, rain sensing wipers, auto headlights, puddle lamps, Mykey technology, 17" matt black alloys, Sony DAB radio, and a whole host of sophisticated systems including Electronic Torque Vectoring Control.

To Sum Up

Epic – but, I would buy the standard Fiesta ST – unless the ST200 really is your dream car.

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2015-15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM, Blue, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 1/2 Leather, Parking Sensors, 13800 Miles £15,495
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2011-11 AUDI TT 2.0 TDI BLACK EDITION QUATTRO, Silver, 3 DR, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 4wd, 82000 Miles £12,795
2012-12 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 TDI GTD DSG AUTO, Grey, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 73800 Miles £11,995
2012-62 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI ZETEC, Silver, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 37673 Miles £10,995
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2009-09 HONDA CR-V 2.2 CTDI EX, Grey, 5 DR, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, Sat Nav, Leather Seats, 48150 Miles £9,795
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2011-11 NISSAN QASHQAI 2.0 DCI N-TEC, Black, 5 Dr, RCL, pAs, Ew, AC, Alloys, Sat Nav, Sunroof, 65945 Miles £9,495
2011-61 AUDI AS1 1.4 TFSI SPORT DSG, Silver, 3 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, Leather Seats, 36800 Miles £9,495
2012-62 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC S AUTO, Grey, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 13650 Miles £8,995
2013-13 HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE, GREY, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, Bluetooth, 22300 Miles £8,995
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Volvo Cars gives the new face of Volvo to the V40

Volvo Cars gives its bestselling V40 and V40 Cross Country the new face of Volvo for Model Year 2017, with trim updates across the range.

CENTRAL to the model year exterior updates are new LED 'Thor's Hammer' headlights, resulting in a confident new look shared with Volvo's new XC90, S90 and V90. In the UK, these all-LED lights mark the V40 and V40 Cross Country out as the first models in the segment to get LED headlights as standard across the range. Also new are grille meshes featuring the updated and more visually striking Volvo Iron Mark.

"The V40 is the best-selling Volvo model in the UK, making it a vital car for the company. With the updates for Model Year 2017, we're making this already very successful model even more attractive to customers," said Nick Connor, Managing Director of Volvo Car UK.

The exterior update includes the addition of eight new wheels across the V40 and V40 Cross Country models, and five new colours to the V40 range, including the completely new Amazon Blue and Denim Blue, as well as three colours already used by other models in the Volvo Car UK portfolio: Bursting Blue, Mussel Blue and Luminous Sand.

Continuing its innovative approach to powertrain engineering, Volvo has reduced CO2 emissions on its popular D2 manual powertrain to just 89 g/km in all trim level and wheel options.

The V40's trim structure has also been changed in line with that of the new XC90. Customers can now choose from Momentum and Inscription versions, along with the sports-inspired R-Design and the rugged Cross Country.

In a cue taken from the award-winning Volvo Concept Estate, a new upholstery called City Weave will be added. Several new interior panel trims will also be offered: Milled Aluminium, Black Grid Aluminium and Stealth Aluminium. New tread plates will be added for the R-Design and Inscription trim levels, and an updated key fob with the new Volvo logo will be available.

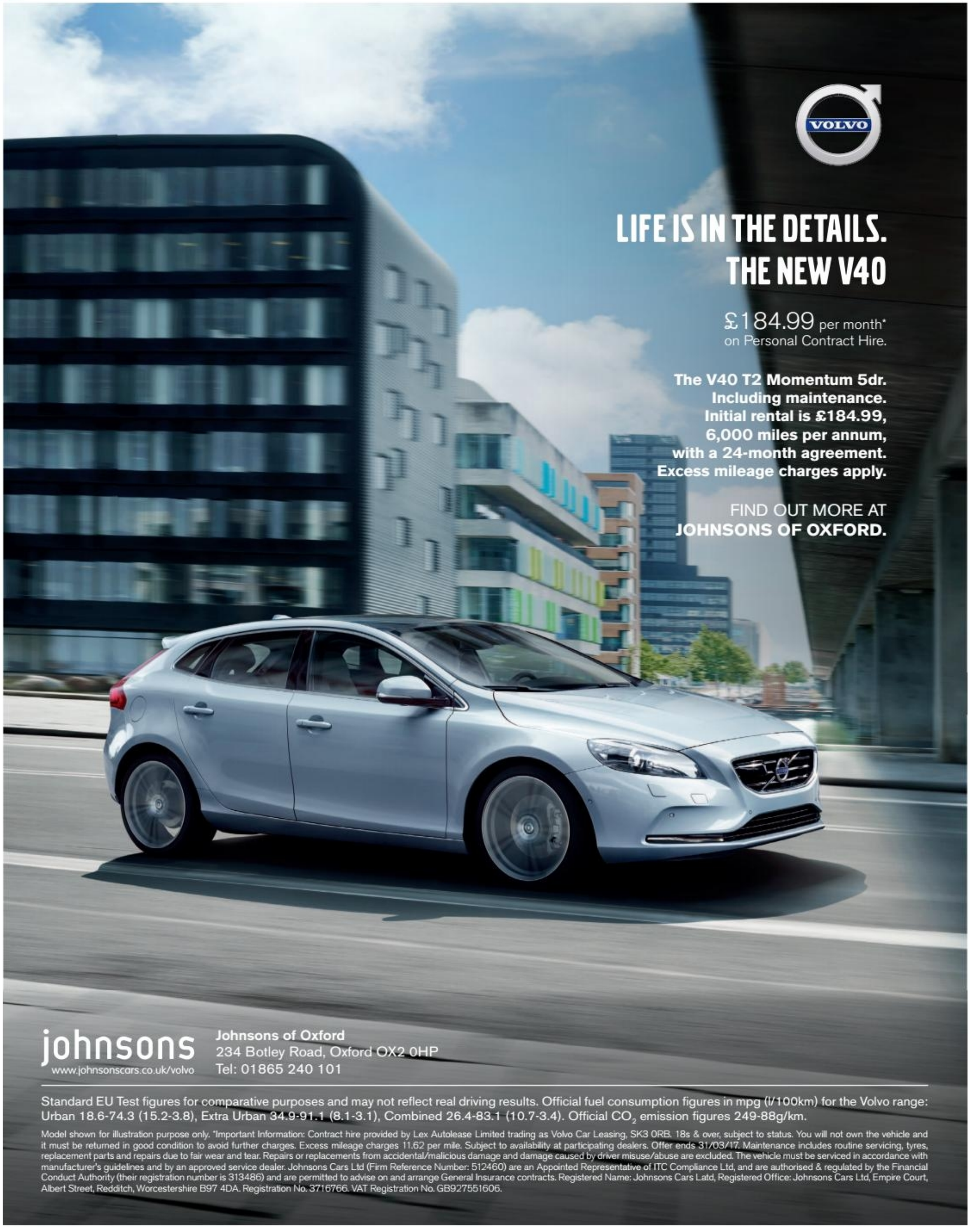
Volvo On Call

The Volvo On Call smartphone app, which allows remote access and control over a wide range of in-car features, receives a substantial update. Volvo On Call already delivers wearable connectivity (Apple Watch/Android Wear), and the new Microsoft Band 2 connectivity now enables voice-control for certain features when using Windows 10-based smartphones.

Other updates to Volvo On Call include a calendar integration function that connects your personal calendar to the mobile app, allowing it to send calendar appointment destinations directly to your navigation on request. For 2016, Volvo On Call will broaden its scope and provide support for up to 10 Volvo vehicles, giving access to all the usual functions across a fleet of cars.

Volvo will also introduce Flic button compatibility with Volvo On Call. Flic allows you to program a single physical 'smart button' to perform several tasks, such as locking your car, and can be used as a shortcut to Volvo On Call services.

Volvo now also offers support for Windows 10 with a new version of the Volvo On Call application that can be used on regular PCs and tablets to interact with your car.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Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Volvo range: Urban 18.6-74.3 (15.2-3.8), Extra Urban 34.9-91.1 (8.1-3.1), Combined 26.4-83.1 (10.7-3.4). Official CO_2 emission figures 249-88g/km.
Model shown for illustration purpose only. *Important Information: Contract hire provided by Lex Autolease Limited trading as Volvo Car Leasing, SK3 0RB. 18s & over, subject to status. You will not own the vehicle and it must be returned in good condition to avoid further charges. Excess mileage charges 11.62 per mile. Subject to availability at participating dealers. Offer ends 31/03/17. Maintenance includes routine servicing, tyres, replacement parts and repairs due to fair wear and tear. Repairs or replacements from accidental/malicious damage and damage caused by driver misuse/abuse are excluded. The vehicle must be serviced in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and by an approved service dealer. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Latd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA. Registration No. 3716766. VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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23.03.17

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SB38027 / 30.3.17

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Year: 2004
Miles: 66,300
Colour: Silver
MOT: August 2017
Price: £2,595 ono

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Miles: 60,200
MOT: Mar 2018
Colour: Dark Blue
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30.3.17

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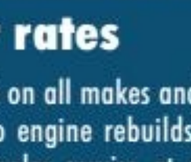

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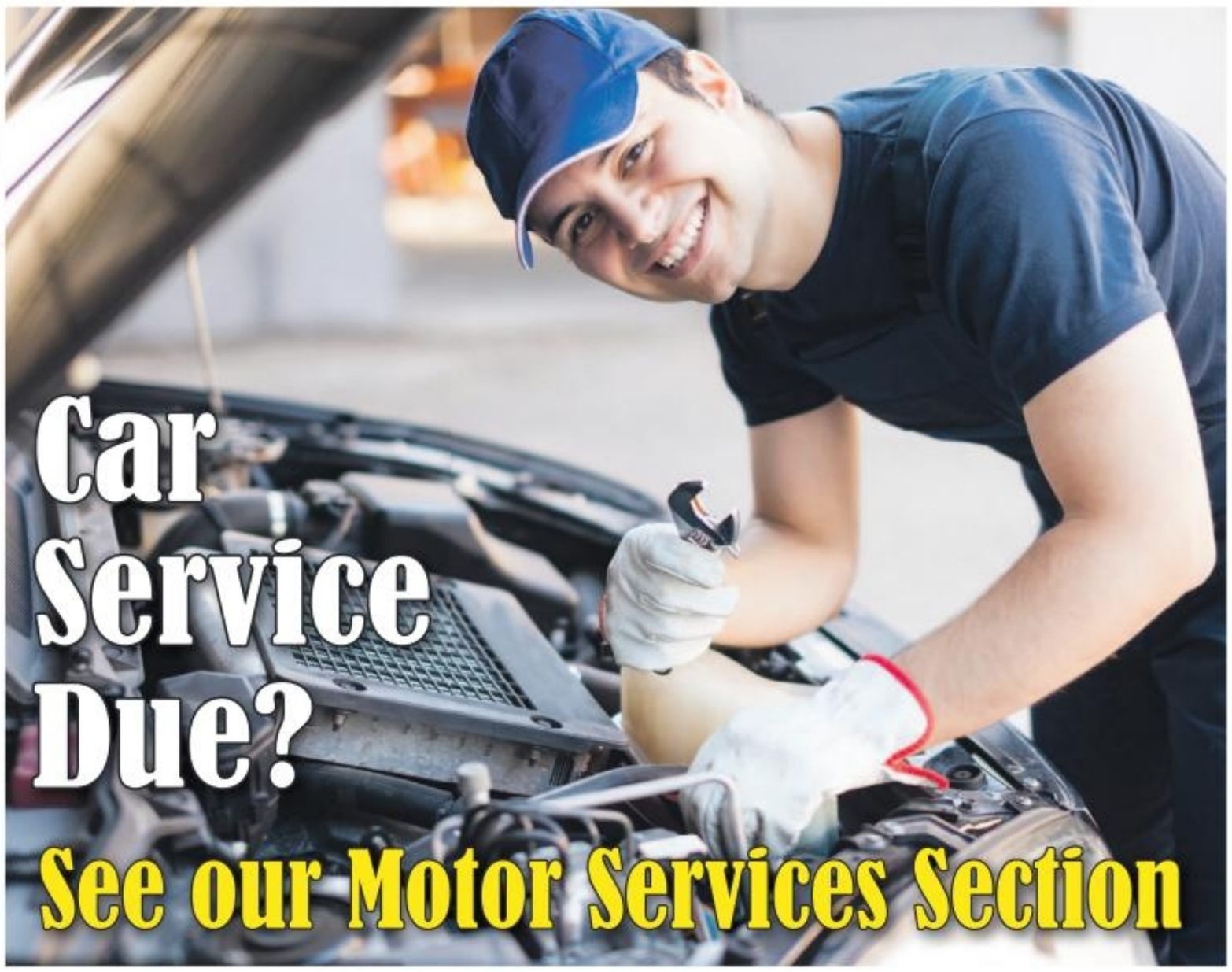

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Notice of Cancellation pursuant to section 5 of the Act

Notice is hereby given that the Authority has pursuant to the above mentioned section this day cancelled the registration of Oxford Citizens Housing Association Limited (Register No. 12305R) the registered office of which is at 244 Barns Road OXFORD OX4 3RW at its request.

The society ceases to enjoy the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancellation had not taken place.

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NILFISK vacuum shampoo leaner (George) with all accessories. Light home use £35 Tel: 01865 750087

BRASS fireplace fender. 68" wide, 6" high approx. Attractive period design. Good condition. £45 ono Tel: 01865 750087

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GOLF club. Driver. Cobra Bio Cell. Graphite shaft. Stiff adjustable 8-11 degrees. Brand new, still wrapped £125 Tel: 01491 651774

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COLLECTION of 15 tea pots for sale. Various quirky designs. All excellent cond. Offers... Tel: 01235 799946

ELECTRIC double bed 4ft x 6ft. Excellent condition. buyer collects with pine headboard. £80 Tel: 01235 772451Various Winnie the Pooh and Beatrice Potter books. £15 only. Bargain. Tel 01865 340878 After 4pm

VARIOUS brown Wade mugs and Wade shaving bowl. £10 only Tel: 01865 340878

GOLF club Titleist Driver 915-D2 Graphite Shaft. Brand new. never been hit. Grab a bargain £165 01491 651774

RED leather settee, large recliner ends, £400 ono. Tel. 01608 645396

WANTED: Morris Marina parts, mudflats front and Rear, chrome wheel trim rings, alloys, headrests, headlights, H4 radio etc. Tel. 07598 938 918

BEDSIDE chest no longer needed, £10 01993 852328

CARAVAN Aquavo water carrier no longer needed. £15 01993 85232

AL-KO tow ball coupling not needed. 01993 852328

NEST of tables. No longer needed. £10 01993 852328

MAKITA 24 volt SDS drill case charger bits all very good condition. No battery £50 01993 843581

CHILDS metal framed swing with blue seat. Free to collector. 01865863915

SHOES Charles Tyrwhitt, black size 8. Boxed as new. £50 01295 255173

WOODEN coffee table. Excellent condition. £25 ono 01993705570

SOFA leather 3-seater dark brown and good condition. £150 01235 832487

DARK blue zip front burberry top gear. £64 01295 710454

ECHO star SR450 receiver antenna positioner with electron with electronic dish size 1mr. video companion video crypt decoder £50 01993 705932

BLACK leather reclining chair and footstall. Top quality and in very good condition. £50 buyer collects 01491 201705

MODERN adjustable standard lamp. Good condition. £20 ono. 01491 835141

MENS leather coat in black. ¾ length. Size XXL £75 ono 01491 835141

FINE white bone china dinner and tea set for 12. Vegetable bowls platters teapot. Perfect condition. Can split £100. 01865874043

BED room dress table white 150cm x 70cm six draws 3 on each side. As new. Cost £200 bargain £50 01844 237820

MENS classic knee length black coat. Size XXL. Excellent condition £60 ono 01491 835141

SEEN on Antiques Road show, Grand Encyclopaedia Practique Mechanique et electrice £65. 1913 amazing fold out modelss. Tel. 01235 847338

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LADIES blue duffle coat, size 14/16, good condition, £10. Tel. 01993 705932

BUREAU, solid rose wood, excellent condition, £90. Tel. 01865 763851

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ECCO shoes, ladies, light brown lace up, unworn, was £75, sell £45, size 42 (8). Tel. 01865 454713

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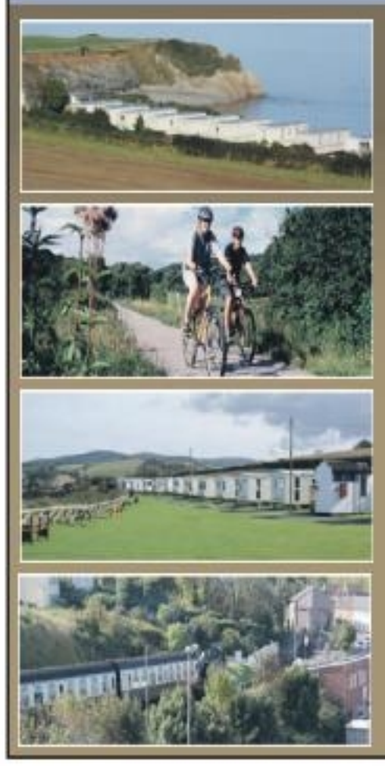

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RUBBER wood dining table, 106cm round, four brand new leather chairs, £85 ono. Tel. 01235 531883

WANTED: Morris Marina, parts wanted, F&R mudflats, halogen H4 headlights, velour headrests, chrome wheel trim rings, alloy wheels, radio. Tel. 07598 938918

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BLACK and Decker, 40cm electric chainsaw. £20. Tel. 01844 278913

FLYMO power trim 500 strimmer, £20. Tel. 01844 278913

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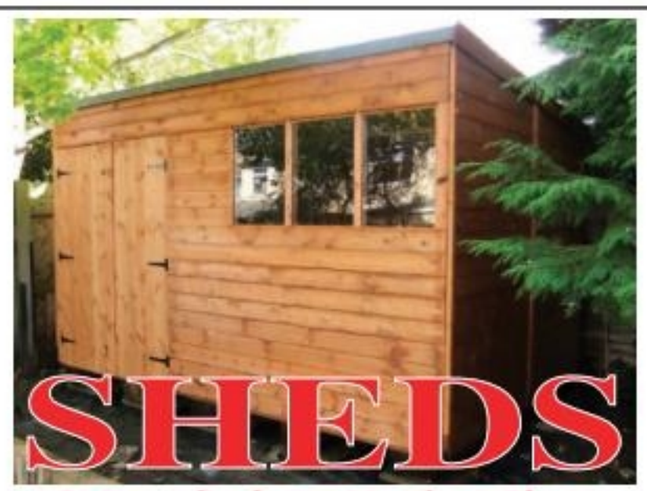

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TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

GILLY, 48, green-eyed nurse, red hair, very naughty, seeks male to care for. I would love to take your temperature! **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425667**

CARLY, 34yrs, attractive and discreet military wife seeks no strings fun with respectable gent. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424419**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425341**

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OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4090520**

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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

CARMEL, blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426159**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

TARA, 43, charismatic, optimistic Irish entrepreneur, sensual, attractive, intelligent, seeks genuine male to spoil, enjoy good times and let just take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426123**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425927**

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425327**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to lose? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425701**

GILLY, 48, green-eyed nurse, red hair, very naughty, seeks male to care for. I would love to take your temperature! **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425667**

CLARE 33, been single for a year now and fed up with own company, WLTM male to bring some excitement back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425665**

LINDA, 45, sensual green eyed blonde, great body, confident, seeks male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425595**

SANDRA 38, slim blue eyed blonde, tactile, fun, would love meet a genuine, loving guy. Age/looks/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425593**

CAROLINE, 51, curvy blonde with lots of love to give, looking for special male to share a bottle of wine and snuggle up with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425495**

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ELEGANT, sensitive, N/S lady, seeks solvent, employed gent, 55-66yrs, for days out, art, cinema, walks, theatre, friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 4622552**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

DEBBIE, 43, dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425909**

CORRINE, genuine advertiser seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196**

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425933**

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no timewasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425931**

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425929**

MY name is Hugh, I'm 61 years old, looking for friendship, possibly more, GSOH. All Texts Answered. **Text only. Mailbox: 5789571**

OXFORDSHIRE male, 31, farmer, 6ft, brown eyes, black hair, medium build, likes walks, days in and days out, socialising, seeks single, no ties lady, for fun and hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425777**

KEN, mature, 58, genuine, white, curious male, wltm white single or widowed lady, 65-75, mature and genuine, for friendship and fun times in private. If you would like a toy boy who is genuine and down to earth, strange request but true, give me a call! **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425603**

CARING loving guy looking for a lady to enjoy good times with. **Text only. Mailbox: 5783640**

MALE 62 looking for a lady 45-55 for relationship must be kind, considerate and affectionate. I enjoy most things in life. **Text only. Mailbox: 5780167**

MALE 60's kind and caring, GSOH, n/s, seeks similar female for lots of love laughter and happy times and hopefully LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 4631948**

MALE looking for a lady 40-60 yrs old who enjoys meals out and in, and snuggle up indoors with a bottle of wine. **Text only. Mailbox: 5444500**

SINGLE male, 31 years old, brown eyes, black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. **Text only. Mailbox: 4765584**

JONATHON 52yrs, 5'8, dark hair, brown eyes, fit, good looking. Unhappily married looking for an attractive lady in similar circumstances. **Text only. Mailbox: 4510225**

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TV unit, light oak, H53cm x W130cm x D41. £50. Tel. 01235 770660

SMALL white freezer, £10. Tel. 01993 705932

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'Heroes' can win full kit for team

Kit competition

A COMPETITION has been launched for football fanatic children to get their hands on a new kit for their team next season.

Funding for junior clubs is often hard to come by, which is why local firm Recognition Express has launched a competition in Oxfordshire for under-16 teams to nominate their unsung heroes.

To be in with a chance of winning a complete set of new football shirts, shorts and socks for your team's 2017/18 season in a design of your choosing, all you have to do is nominate somebody whose tireless work deserves recognition.

Andy Olejnik, director of Recognition Express Oxfordshire, said: "Every football club has an unsung hero whether it be a coach, player, supporter, groundsman or someone who works tirelessly on match days and behind the scenes, always going the extra mile for the team.

"We want to recognise the contribution these unsung heroes make to junior football teams.

"In junior clubs this could also be a teacher, parent or even a grandparent who turns out to help come rain or shine.

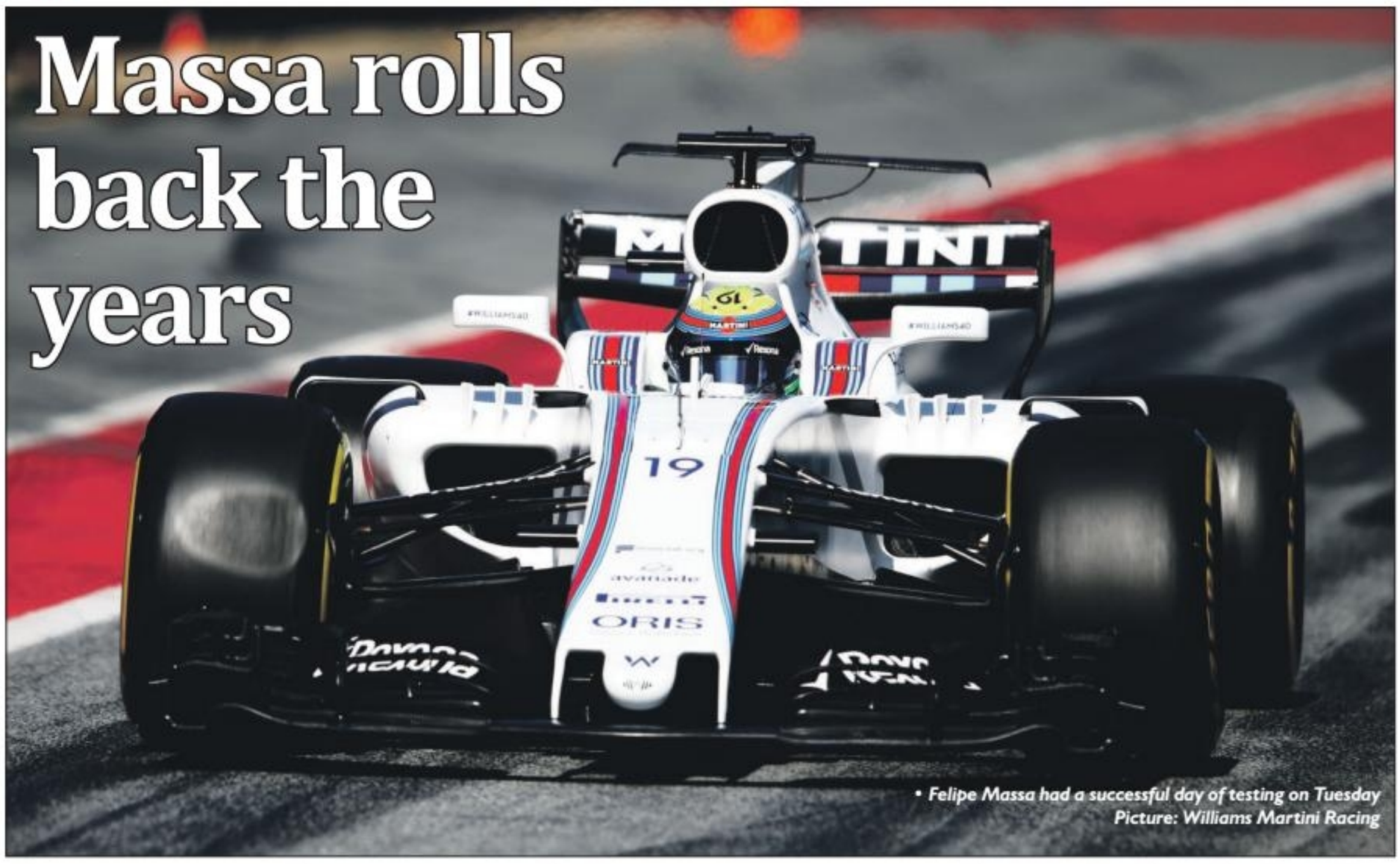
"We wanted to give something back to the community we serve. It makes sense for us to combine by donating a new team strip to a local junior football club with recognising an unsung hero."

Anyone can nominate a junior football club hero. The competition is open to all under-16s junior football clubs playing in the Oxfordshire area.

To enter, visit tinyurl.com/zkkdrxd and complete the entry form. The competition closes on April 7 and the winner will be announced on April 18.

The football hero will be presented with the team's new kit in September in time for the start of the season.

Massa rolls back the years



• Felipe Massa had a successful day of testing on Tuesday Picture: Williams Martini Racing

F1

By Adam Flinn

FELIPE Massa was the form man on day one of the second pre-season test, setting the fastest time of the day and completing the most laps.

The veteran Williams racer did 168 laps of the Spanish track of Catalunya and ended top of the table with a time of 1.19.726 – almost two tenths quicker than Daniel Ricciardo's Red Bull.

The extended running will be of welcome relief to the Grove-based team, after getting limited track time during the first test last week because of Lance Stroll's troubles.

The 18-year-old rookie spun twice and crashed once during his two days on track, leading to Williams having to abandon the final day of the test altogether.

"It was a very long day but it was definitely a great one for the team," said Massa.

"We managed to do 168 laps so for the car, the team and the reliability, it was definitely a great day.

"We're still at the beginning of the year and there's so many things to do and to understand, to figure out where we are compared to the others, but it's a positive day."

Enstone-based Renault had a tougher day, but Jolyon Palmer and Nico Hulkenberg still managed 73 laps between them.

Palmer's running in the morning was curtailed due to a precautionary power unit change, but Hulkenberg was able to complete his programme.

Renault's chief technical officer Bob Bell said: "Overall, it was a useful day where we completed most of the tests we wanted to, despite running for fewer laps than originally planned.

"We did start with a disappointing morning for Jolyon, but this gave way to a more positive afternoon for Nico, especially with respectable pace shown on the soft compound tyres."

Banbury-based Haas had a solid day of running with Kevin Magnussen completing 81 laps and setting the eighth-fastest time of the day.

The team suffered a few issues in the afternoon, but said it was nothing major.

Team principal Guenther Steiner said: "We had a very productive morning, learned a lot and we managed to get a lot of laps in.

"The afternoon was not as good as we had a few small problems that meant we didn't get the running in we wanted, but it's all part of testing and no big panic."

Testing continued yesterday as the Oxfordshire Guardian went to press, with the final two days of running today and tomorrow before the start of the season in Australia on March 27.

Blues too strong for lame Stags

Rugby League

OXFORD RL thrashed Hemel Stags 40-12 on Sunday to open their Kingstone Press League 1 with aplomb and record their second highest ever win.

Inspired by man of the match and hat-trick hero Casey Canterbury, Oxford scored 40 unanswered points, bookended by Hemel tries.

It was the Blues' second biggest ever win, bettered only by a 46-10 victory over Hemel the last time the two sides met.

The game started with an early try – against his old club – by Hemel's Jorge Richardson.

But hosts Oxford responded emphatically as Canterbury scored two tries to give the hosts the lead after 24 minutes.

While the scoreboard kept blowing over in the fierce wind, the Oxford scoreline kept ticking over, with two more tries.

The first was a crash-over from Callum Bustin, which was followed by a try from the conveniently named Callum Windley to give the Tilsley Park side a 24-6 lead at half-time.

• Hat-trick hero Casey Canterbury. Picture: @Oxford_RL

The second half began with two disallowed Oxford tries, one on each wing, before forward Dwaine McRae and Bustin extended the lead.

The dominant blues finished their scoring when Canterbury completed his hat-trick with 10 minutes to go.

The Stags still had time to reply with a crash-over try from Brad Clavering.

The Blues host Workington Town on Sunday.

• Oxford City Star Alan Green attacks. Picture: @OxfordCityStars

Stars still losing their shine

Ice hockey

MID-TABLE Oxford City Stars' season continues to peter out after a 3-2 defeat at Streatham on Sunday.

Despite beating their London opposition 7-0 on the same ice in January, Simon Anderson's side left the Streatham Ice Arena pointless.

The Stars played well but fell behind early on when George Norcliffe swept the puck past Mark Duffy after six minutes.

Man of the match Duffy needed to be on hand to thwart the Redhawks on several more occasions.

Jaroslav Cesky forced Oxford back onto level terms in the 14th minute with a backhand flick.

After a goalless second period, centreman Callum Best reinstated the Redhawks' lead just a minute into the final period before Hallam Wilson restored parity for the Stars for a second time after 48 minutes.

Despite twice clawing their way back into the match, Oxford were hit with a hammer blow when Norcliffe tapped in a rebound to net his brace on 55 minutes.

There was no way back for the Stars, who are now winless on the road in their last three matches.

City 'Mare in Weston

Oxford City

By George Welch

OXFORD City boss Mark Jones voiced his disappointment at his players after the Hoops were comfortably beaten 3-0 at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday.

A first-half strike from Dayle Grubb and a double from Bradley Ash either side of half-time helped the seaside team to back-to-back wins, leaving them just two points behind City in the middle of the National League South table.

Jones would have been keen to extend his side's four match unbeaten run to consolidate their position, but that never looked likely from the moment Weston took the lead on 20 minutes.

Despite starting brightly, the Hoops fell behind when a Weston counter attack saw Seagulls skipper Grubb breakaway and make no mistake to fire beyond Craig Hill via a wicked bounce off the uneven goalmouth.

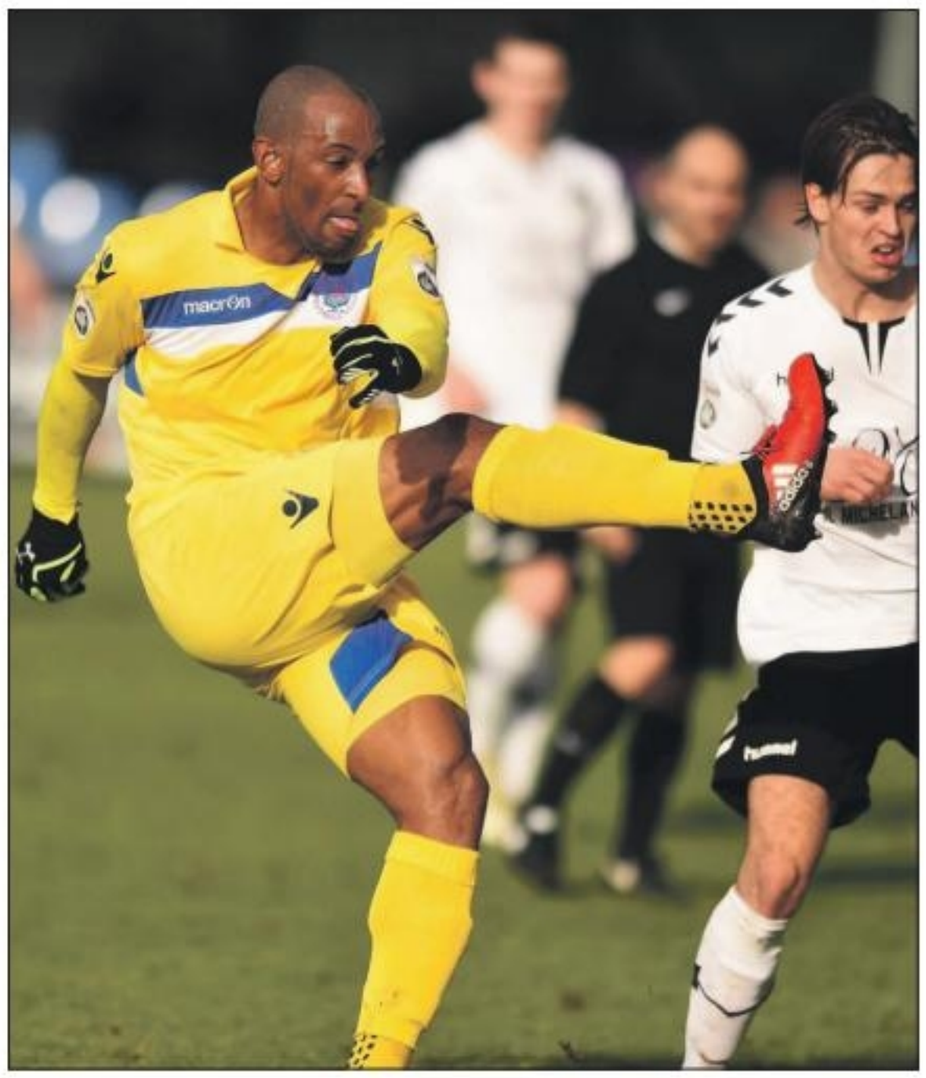
The goal knocked the wind out of City, leading to a significant spell of pressure from the home side, which they duly utilised.

Just after the half hour mark Weston doubled their advantage when a missed interception released Ash who scored with a speculative effort.

The hosts were dominant and, despite an optimistic triple substitution by Jones on the hour, were rarely threatened.

The Seagulls made the win comprehensive when Ash converted from the spot on 76 minutes to complete his brace after Scott Davies brought down Grubb in the area.

Speaking after the game, manager Jones said: "I'm very disappointed with the performance today.



• Oxford City striker Jefferson Louis had a frustrating afternoon
Picture: Michael Allen

I thought we weren't tight enough all over the pitch and the whole performance wasn't good enough to get a positive result at this level.

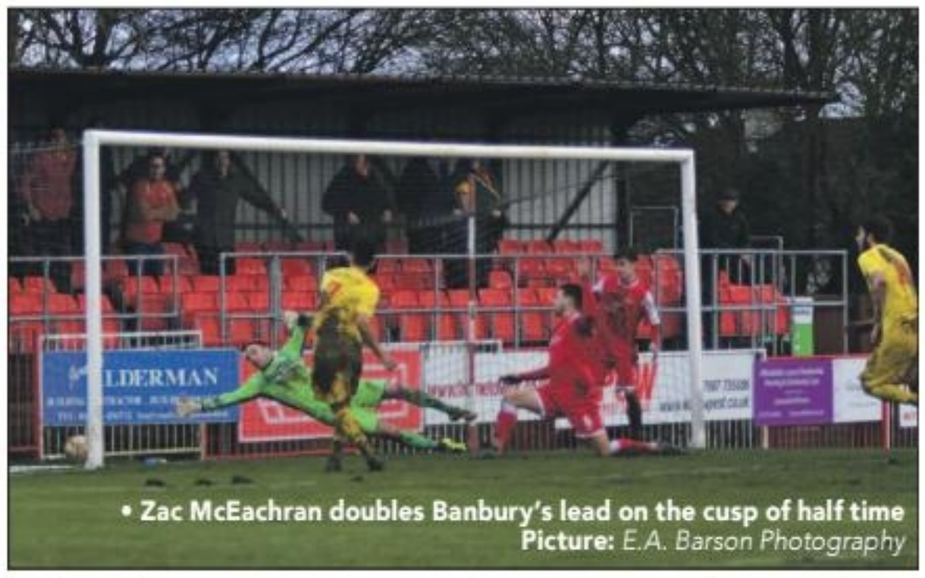
"If you look through the whole team there certainly weren't many 8/10s and I feel we were beaten by the better side.

"There were a couple of mistakes there for the goals we gave away and if you're making mistakes and encouraging the opposition like we were then it's going to be a tough afternoon.

"Overall, it's a bad day at the office and we didn't deserve anything from the game.

"We want to get it right. I'm passionate to do well and I didn't see that same passion and commitment."

The Hoops are looking to get back to winning ways when they host lowly Whitehawk at Court Place Farm on Saturday.



• Zac McEachran doubles Banbury's lead on the cusp of half time
Picture: E.A. Barson Photography

Banbury survive onslaught

Banbury United

TWO first half goals and a superb battling second half display under heavy pressure earned Banbury United a valuable 2-1 win at fellow play-off chasers Frome Town on Saturday.

United, who are no strangers to early goals, scored after just two minutes on a heavy Special Effect Stadium pitch thanks to a Ricky Johnson strike.

The sticky surface didn't stop the forward though, and he fired low past Kyle Phillips in the Frome goal from 12 yards to put the Puritans ahead.

Mike Ford's side dominated the first half and could have doubled the lead when Zac McEachran and Eddie Odhiambo tested the Frome defence.

But McEachran would fare better deep into first half stoppage time when he knocked home from six yards when Frome failed to clear a Tom Winters corner.

But the second half was to be a different story and, while in the first 45 minutes United dominated offensively, they had to show their defensive capabilities as Town threw the proverbial kitchen sink at the north Oxfordshire side.

Frome piled the pressure on Banbury. It was one-way traffic as United contested an upward pitch in draining conditions.

Frome did pull one back just before the hour when Clayton Green nodded in from a corner.

There was no let-up for the visitors' defence but they defended with commitment to keep the home side out to record their first back-to-back wins in the league since the start of January.

Ford's side, who sit sixth, one place and eight points off the play-offs with a game in hand, welcome second bottom Cirencester Town to the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium on Saturday.

Irish eyes are smiling after last-minute winner

Didcot Town

A GOAL at the death denied Didcot Town an impressive point against high-flying Taunton Town in an entertaining 3-2 defeat on Tuesday.

A late winner from Owen Irish five minutes from time condemned Diddy to their fifth defeat in six matches as third-placed Taunton twice fought back from behind to record their 18th win in 22 games.

Louis Joyce first fired the Railwaymen into an 18th minute lead after collecting a smart ball from George Reid, but they were pegged back six minutes later when Craig Veal found the bottom corner for the Peacocks.

Didcot took the lead for the second time on the hour via a Ben Whitehead penalty but, again, the visitors levelled the tie, this time through Ollie Chamberlain.

Taunton had the chance to complete the comeback on 80 minutes from the spot, but Diddy keeper Leigh Bedwell saved from Jordan Rogers.

The Peacocks' turnaround was achieved in the dying minutes however as Irish fired home to kill Diddy off.

Didcot, who are still waiting to hear the outcome of Saturday's abandoned game against runaway leaders Hereford on Saturday, slipped to 14th in Division 1 South & West as their long, winless run since Boxing Day continues.

Andy Ballard's side host 18th placed Slimbridge, who have won their last two games, on Saturday.

Millers' play-off charge takes a double blow

North Leigh

NORTH Leigh's ambitious play-off hopes continue to disintegrate after falling to back-to-back league defeats for the first time since October.

The Millers' winless run was stretched to four Division 1 South & West games after wounding defeats this week to other play-off contenders Tiverton Town and Mangotsfield United.

First, Leigh were hammered 4-1 at Tiverton on Saturday where the Devon side ran riot.

Leading 3-0 at half time, Tivvy were 4-0 up before Andy Gunn scored a consolation goal for Leigh on 80 minutes.

A Levi Landricombe double and further strikes from Jamie Short and Michael Landricombe did the damage in a disappointing afternoon for John Brough's side.

But the disappointment didn't end there as the Millers slipped to a 3-2 defeat at home to Mangotsfield on Tuesday.

The Mangos held a commanding 2-0 lead at half time, with Lewis Powell scoring his 99th goal for the club and Liam Monelle netting on the cusp of half-time.

Mitch Tippins made it 3-0 in the 56th minute to make sure the three points went back to south Gloucestershire.

But it wasn't without a scare – Roger James and Michael Hopkins both scored in the last 10 minutes for the Millers to set up a tense finale.

The damaging losses mean Leigh slip to 11th and 14 points off the play-offs with at least two games in hand on all the teams above them.

They host 10th-placed Wimborne Town at Eynsham Park on Saturday.

Women fans are quids in

• Female United supporters who travelled down to Frome on Saturday

AN OXFORDSHIRE non-league club is attempting to attract new women supporters by offering match tickets for £1.

Southern Premier League side Banbury United is supporting the 'Women at the Game' initiative, timed to mark International Women's Day, which fell on Wednesday.

Women and girls can watch the Puritans, who play at the seventh tier of English football, take on Cirencester Town on Saturday for the special reduced price.

Women at the Game is the brainchild of Jacqui Forster, who has helped clubs like Banbury United in her former role at Supporters Direct to become fan-owned football clubs.

The aim is for women of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicity, ability and religious belief to feel welcome and comfortable attending sports events, particularly men's football, the club said.

Banbury United communications director David Shadbolt said: "While we already have a number of women who come to our games on a regular basis, we are keen to join in this initiative and for more to enjoy games at the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium.

"We are delighted to give the opportunity for all women and girls to attend Saturday's game against Cirencester Town for just £1.

"We will be working hard on the day so that women, some of whom have perhaps never been to a live game, feel welcome and enjoy the match."

Ruthless Pirates cut through U's defence

By George Welch

A TOUGH afternoon for a depleted Oxford United saw their impressive run of form rudely interrupted as two first half goals ensured rivals Bristol Rovers completed the double over the U's.

Goals from Ollie Clarke (16) and Stuart Sinclair (36) before the break sent Rovers on their way to a vital three points to leapfrog their hosts in the League One table on Saturday.

But Oxford were severely weakened with injuries to influential players Chris Maguire (thigh), Rob Hall (hamstring), Curtis Nelson (ankle) and Kane Hemmings (dead leg).

The U's had won 11 of their previous 14 matches in all competitions but boss Michael Appleton couldn't even name a striker on the bench and included three right backs.

United fell behind and struggled to galvanise a recovery.

Rovers midfielder Clarke struck a fine opening goal when he cut in from the right edge of the penalty area and curled a shot just inside the far post from 16 yards.

United's in-form forward Conor McAleny struck the post before the Pirates doubled their lead when Sinclair capitalised on some poor defending 10 minutes before the break to fire low past Simon Eastwood for his first goal of the season.

Appleton replaced left back Joe Skarz with midfielder Joe Rothwell at the break but the U's failed to claw their way back into the contest and Darrell Clarke's side left the Kassam Stadium with maximum points.

Rovers, who won the return fixture 2-1 in August, are eight unbeaten, up to ninth and seven points off the play-offs.

• Conor McAleny runs into Ryan Sweeney
Pictures: Steve Daniels

• Chey Dunkley clears the ball under pressure from Ollie Clarke

Defender agrees new one-year deal with U's

OXFORD United defender Sam Long became the second local lad to commit his future to the club in four days by signing a new one-year deal with the U's.

The versatile defender, who came through the club's youth development programme during his 13 years at the club, joins Josh Ruffels in agreeing a 12 month extension to his deal at the U's.

Long, who has only made six appearances so far this season, said: "I'm glad to have the opportunity.

"It has been a bit frustrating for me this season with a couple of injuries but I am fit and raring to go again now and feel very much part of the squad and what we are trying to build here.

"It is up to me to train hard, wait for an opportunity and then play my heart out to try and stay in the team.

"Obviously as a local lad it is great to be involved and there are some massive games coming up for us this season."

Head coach Michael Appleton added: "Sam has an outstanding attitude and like Josh Ruffels is a key member of the squad.

"He can play in a few positions and is improving all the time.

"He has had to be a bit patient but he will get his chance at some stage and we know he will take it with both hands when that happens."

Young strikers James Roberts and Jordan Graham have left the club to join Stalybridge Celtic and Farnborough respectively on loan.

Reserve goalkeeper Benji Buchel joined League Two Barnet for a week on an emergency loan after an injury crisis among the keepers at the Hive.

The Liechtenstein international linked up with the Bees on Saturday and played in the their 1-0 defeat at Accrington Stanley.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Sheffield United	36	27	72
2	Fleetwood Town	35	20	64
3	Scunthorpe United	36	21	61
4	Bolton Wanderers	34	17	60
5	Bradford City	36	13	59
6	Millwall	35	9	58
7	Southend United	35	10	54
8	Walsall	36	0	52
9	Bristol Rovers	36	0	51
10	Peterborough United	36	1	50
11	Oxford United	34	6	49
12	Rochdale	33	2	49
13	AFC Wimbledon	35	2	47
14	Charlton Athletic	36	4	45
15	MK Dons	35	0	43
16	Northampton Town	36	-7	43
17	Gillingham	36	-10	42
18	Shrewsbury Town	36	-11	42
19	Bury	36	-10	40
20	Oldham Athletic	36	-13	39
21	Swindon Town	36	-15	36
22	Port Vale	33	-17	35
23	Chesterfield	36	-25	31
24	Coventry	35	-24	26

Checkatrade Trophy final tickets on sale

EXCITEMENT continues to build for Oxford United fans as tickets for the U's second trip to Wembley in as many years go on sale to the general public tomorrow morning.

United earned their place in the final of the Checkatrade Trophy and another chance to play at the home of football on April 2 after beating League Two Luton Town 3-2 at Kenilworth Road.

The U's went 2-0 up through Phil Edwards (10) and a Paul Ruddock own goal (69) before the hosts fought back with Isaac Vassell (72) and former U Danny Hylton (82).

But United retaliated instantly and magnificent Marvin Johnson scored the winner with a left-footed 20-yard curler with five minutes to go.

The win sets up an intriguing final against struggling League One side Coventry City who this week sacked manager Russell Slade and reappointed Mark Robins.

United have said that tickets "are selling well" after being made available to season ticket holders and are expected to be snapped up when they go on general sale.

Tickets are available at tinyurl.com/juxh4qf and 0844 453 9015 from 8am tomorrow.

OUFC women stung by London Bees

A DISASTROUS opening 30 minutes from Oxford United Women against London Bees on Sunday meant their search for a first three points of the season continues.

A horror half-hour saw United go 3-0 down in 27 minutes to the buzzing London side to stun the U's at the Hive.

Hana Lalani (6), Emma Beckett (16), and Ashleigh Goddard (27) strikes blitzed Oxford to earn a comprehensive 3-0 lead and send United on their way to their first defeat under their new boss Andy Cook.

The only real bright spark for the Yellows came in the 88th minute when striker Ini Umotong struck home – but the damage was done long before the U's consolation.

The result means Oxford have lost two and drawn one of their Spring Series matches.

Any plans of a positive start for Oxford were banished after just a few minutes when Lalani ran past a couple of stranded Oxford defenders to slot a tidy finish into the far post.

United responded well with efforts from Umotong, Emily Donovan and Ellie Noble going close.

But the Bees brushed their visitors aside when Beckett headed home from a 14th minute free kick and Goddard dipped an effort beyond Demi Lambourne in the Oxford goal.

New signing Taomé Oliver made her debut for Oxford on the hour mark, as the game transitioned into a midfield battle.

Two long-range strikes from Noble were the only source of action as both teams tired before Umotong scored with just two minutes remaining.

Oxford continue their hunt for a first win of the Spring Series as they host Aston Villa on Sunday.

• Ini Umotong in action for Oxford United Women against London Bees
Picture: Ian Randall Photography

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Blades too sharp for U's

Oxford United 2
Sheffield United 3

• *Chey Dunkley heads United into the lead Picture: Steve Daniels*

By George Welch

OXFORD United's optimistic play-off ambitions were dealt a major blow as former U's boss Chris Wilder lead his Sheffield United side to a 3-2 win on Tuesday.

Billy Sharp scored twice as the runaway League One leaders came from behind at the Kassam Stadium to extend their unbeaten run to seven games and complete the double over Oxford.

The U's, who have now lost their last three matches at the Kassam, were good value for their half time lead thanks to a Chey Dunkley header.

But Michael Appleton's side were outgunned after the break when a brace from the goal-hungry Sharp and a Kieron Freeman effort gave the champions elect maximum points, despite a fine injury time finish from Toni Martinez.

The U's gambled by including the injury-struck Kane Hemmings, Rob Hall, Chris Maguire and Curtis Nelson after they had been rated 50/50 in the build up.

And the gamble looked to have paid off as the hosts started strongly with Conor McAleny going close with a 12th-minute shot.

The Yellows began to dominate as Dunkley and Nelson both went close before they finally took the lead on 22 minutes.

Crucially, former Yellows captain Jake Wright was off the pitch receiving treatment when Maguire swung in a wicked delivery from a corner for towering defender Dunkley to nod the U's in front.

The Blades were neat in possession but had rarely threatened Simon Eastwood in the Oxford goal.

That was until Sharp, as he often does, created space for himself when Oxford failed to clear a corner and forced the ball past Eastwood from eight yards.

Throwing caution to the wind the U's went for the win, but they fell behind on 72 minutes when Freeman ghosted in at the back post and, although he tried to square the ball, it floated inside the far post instead.

Five minutes later and it was 3-1 when Freeman was tripped in the box by a mistimed Nelson challenge.

Sharp did the rest from the spot to cap a fine Blades comeback and increase his League One tally to 26 goals.

The Yellows kept going but substitute Martinez's first league goal to make the scoreline a more respectable 3-2 for the club was too little too late.

The defeat to Sheffield United, coupled with Saturday's defeat at home to Bristol Rovers, sees Appleton's side slip to 11th in the table after their first back-to-back defeats since August.

The U's face two away games as they travel to Peterborough on Saturday before visiting Oldham on Tuesday.

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